

Hafa Adai!

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Sabalu Market vendors oppose Kagman move



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Vendors and customers sign a petition opposing the re-location of the Sabalu Market to Kagman II.



CHRYSTAL MARINO

People walk in and out of the weekly Sabalu Market at the Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai Church.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO

chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Over 70 vendors at Sabalu Market have signed a petition opposing their transfer

from the Garapan Fishing Base to Kagman II starting April 27.

The petition, initiated by Patelyn Camacho of V&P Marianas Bubosi General Merchandise and Local Produce, instead

wants the weekend open-air market to relocate to the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, Garapan Roundhouse, or the Sugar King Park. About 30 vendors said

See **SABALU** on Page 4

AFTER FEMALE INMATE FOUND IN MALE INMATE'S CELL

3 DOC officers now on admin leave

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Corrections Commissioner Anthony Torres has officially placed three of his officers on administration leave pending investigation into a recent incident where a female inmate was allegedly raped within the prison and found in a male inmate's cell.



Torres

See **OFFICERS** on Page 4

Palacios: Google's fiber optic cable will help attract new investments, industries



Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan, and Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) joined Guam Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio, Rear Admiral Gregory Huffman, and Google Network Infrastructure Regional Network lead Yan Tang, Citadel CEO Jim Beighley, and special assistant for Broadband Policy Development Glen Hunter onboard SubCom's CS *Dependable* vessel that is involved in the laying of subsea fiber cables through the Marianas. In the photo with Palacios and Aldan is SubCom captain Yann Durieux, who provided information about the logistics of laying fiber cables underwater. Palacios stated that Google's fiber optic cable landing in the CNMI will help attract new investments, industries, and expand communication and information security and resilience.

Gov. Arnold Palacios joined Guam Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio, and Google Network Infrastructure Regional Network lead Yan Tang onboard SubCom's CS *Dependable* vessel that is involved in the laying of subsea fiber cables

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CNMI OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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LOCAL

Department of Public Works Secretary Ray N. Yumul issued last Tuesday a notice to proceed for a contractor to start Phase 1A of the road improvements for the Route 36, or the Windward/Chalan Kalabera Road.

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SUPPLEMENT

Saipan Tribune helps Dandan Middle School commemorate its 25th year anniversary with a special supplement.

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LIFE & STYLE

The executor of O.J. Simpson's estate says he will work to prevent a payout of a \$33.5 million judgment awarded by a California civil jury nearly three decades ago in a wrongful death lawsuit filed by the families of Simpson's ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman.

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Local

‘Burning of CNMI flag disrespectful, illegal’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang said the recent burning of the CNMI flag by a man who touts himself as an Indigenous rights activist was very disrespectful and it’s illegal.

Asked for comments about Raymond Quitugua’s burning of the CNMI flag that circulated on social media,

Palacios said during a press briefing Monday last week that personally, it was very disrespectful “of the individual that did that.”

The governor said according to the CNMI statute and constitution, it is illegal.

He said it is his understanding that the Office of Attorney General is seriously looking at what legal action to take against the person.

“But personally, I think that

was an insult to the whole Commonwealth,” Palacios said.

Last April 2, Quitugua posted a public video of him burning the CNMI flag while verbally denouncing that it’s not a true representation of the Indigenous people of the CNMI.



Palacios

Quitugua is a regular speaker during public comments portion of the Legislature’s meetings/sessions, in which he would discuss the same complaints about the CNMI flag. Several times, the presiding officers of the Legislature would tell him

that his comments are not related to any agenda of the sessions/meetings.

Palacios said if the argument that the CNMI is not adopting the appropriate flag and that the mwar mwar or the flowers should not be there, that issue had been resolved way back when the whole community adopted it and the Legislature adopted the official flag, as well as the official Commonwealth seal.

Apatang said the law is very specific that it’s against the law to burn the CNMI flag.

“That’s very hard to take. I saw that picture on Facebook, the individual burning the flag,” Apatang said.

He said the same as with the U.S. flag, the CNMI honors the flag every day.

“So we’re just asking our community to please respect our flag,” said Apatang, adding that people can do other ways of expressing freedom of speech besides burning the flag.

Motion filed to disqualify Kingman, entire OAG from prosecuting contempt case

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former governor Ralph DLG Torres, through his attorney Joaquin Torres, has filed a motion to disqualify assistant attorney general James Kingman and the entire Office of the Attorney General from prosecuting the pending contempt case filed against Torres.

Last Thursday, Joaquin Torres officially filed a motion seeking the disqualification of Kingman and the entire OAG from prosecut-

ing the contempt case filed against the former governor late last year.

Joaquin Torres argues that there is a clear and pressing need for the disqualification of Kingman and the entire OAG due to alleged systemic failures to adhere to ethical standards and judicial directives that essentially compromised the impartiality of the prosecutorial process.

“The association between Kingman and the disqualified attorney, Robert Glass, cou-

pled with the systemic failure of the OAG to adhere to ethical standards and judicial directives, has compromised the integrity and impartiality of the prosecutorial process to an extent that cannot be overlooked. The purported ‘wall’ or ‘screen’ intended to isolate Glass, and by extension, the subsequent prosecution efforts, symbolizes a broader disregard for ethical obligations within the OAG. Given the cumulative nature of these ethical violations and the inherent conflicts of

interest presented, it is both justified and necessary for the court to exercise its inherent authority to disqualify Kingman and the entire OAG from this case. By doing so, the court will also respond to Torres’s longstanding plea for an independent prosecutorial voice, one that is untainted by prior engagements or conflicts of interest,” said the motion.

Back in April 2022, the OAG, through attorney Glass, charged Torres with 12 counts of misconduct in public office, one count of theft, and one count of contempt pursuant to a legislative subpoena.

On Aug. 23, 2022, Superior Court Judge *pro tem* Alberto Tolentino found that Glass “is disqualified from prosecuting defendant for contempt based upon exposure to confidential in-

formation in the legislative subpoena.”

Back in November 2023, Kingman refiled the contempt charge against Torres.

Now, the defense is arguing that Kingman’s mere association with Glass raises concerns about impartiality.

“Therefore, the mere association of Kingman with Glass, given the latter’s disqualification for exposure to confidential information, suffices to raise valid concerns under the Trone standard (The Trone decision articulates a standard focusing on the risk of information misuse, rather than its actual occurrence). It introduces the risk—or at least the appearance of risk—that Kingman could leverage undisclosed, privileged insights gained by Glass, thus compromising the fairness of the proceedings against Torres. In light

of these considerations, this court is justified in seeking disqualification as a means to preempt any undue advantage and to uphold the ethical and procedural integrity of the trial,” said the defense.

In addition, the defense argues that the need to disqualify the entire OAG in prosecuting Torres for contempt extends beyond the problematic association between Kingman and Glass.

“It is rooted in the OAG’s broader incapacity to maintain ethical integrity and uphold its prosecutorial responsibilities. This predicament is exacerbated by the OAG’s involvement in offering legal counsel on legislative subpoenas—counsel directly contributing to the foundation of the contempt charge and creating a conflict of interest that cannot be overlooked,” said Joaquin Torres.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-24-018

CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE POTABLE WATER DISINFECTION SYSTEMS, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE FOR SAIPAN and ROTA

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply, Delivery, Installation & Maintenance of Calcium Hypochlorite potable water disinfection systems and supply & delivery of calcium hypochlorite for Saipan and Rota, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-24-018, Calcium Hypochlorite Potable Water Disinfection Systems, Delivery, Installation, and Maintenance and Supply & Delivery of Calcium Hypochlorite for Saipan and Rota” to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) May 9, 2024** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 24, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, CUC Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager, via email address-rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE

Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN

Purchasing Administrator

Northern Marianas College

Procurement & Property Management Office

P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.

Tel.: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601

E-mail: pppo@marianas.edu

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NMC RFP 24-001

RENTAL PROPERTY FOR THE CREES CENTER FOR AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Northern Marianas College – Department of Financial Services Unit is soliciting competitive sealed bids for Proposal of a RENTAL PROPERTY FOR THE CREES CENTER FOR AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

The bid packet may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing Tuesday, March 26, 2024 between the hours of 9:00-11:30a.m. and 1:00-4:00p.m. Electronic packet may be requested to Odin C. Garces at pppo@marianas.edu.

Bid Submission Due Date: April 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. P, Saipan, MP 96950.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

/s/Odin C. Garces
NMC Procurement & Property Management Office

Name: Andrey A. Venezuela

Address: P.O. Box 504323

Saipan, MP 96950

Phone: (670) 286-2126

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

OF THE COMMONWEALTH

OF THE NORTHERN

MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the

Petition for the

Change of Name of:

Andrey Alvarado

Venezuela

Petitioner

] FCD CN CIVIL

] ACTION NO.

] 24-0137

]]

] NOTICE OF

] HEARING

]]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 17, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 8th day of April, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz

Clerk of Court

/s/

By: Clerk of Court

Road improvements for Windward/Chalan Kalabera Road gets green light

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Works Secretary Ray N. Yumul issued last Tuesday a notice to proceed for a contractor to start Phase 1A of the road improvements for the Route 36, or the Windward/Chalan Kalabera Road.

Yumul told *Saipan Tribune* that the contract in the amount of \$3.8 million was awarded to RNV Construction.

The completion date will be April 14, 2025.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, seventh from right, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, sixth from right, lead the ribbon-cutting for the completed \$17.01-million Route 36 Phase 2 construction of all-weather roadway along Windward/Chalan Kalabera Road located in the northeastern coast of Saipan in April 2023.

Yumul informed RNV Construction general manager Ruel R. Villacrusis that the

contract performance time is 365 calendar days to complete the road improvements.

He said the improvements include environmental compliance such as biological and wildlife survey and archaeological investigation, based on the scope of works developed the package.

Yumul noted that he must approved any additional work not included in the original contract scope though an authorized contract change order prior to commencement of the work.

"Do not rely on any other form of verbal or written approval to perform any additional work," the secretary

told Villacrusis.

He said any and all expenses incurred prior to the approval of a properly executed contract change order may not be eligible for reimbursement.

RNV Construction was also the contractor for the \$17-million Route 36 Phase 2 construction of the all-weather roadway along Windward/Chalan Kalabera Road located in the northeastern coast of Saipan. GHD Inc.

was the construction manager.

In April 2023, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov.

David M. Apatang, and Federal Highway Administration-Hawaii Division Territorial representative Gabrielle Gersh led the ribbon-cutting for the completed Route 36 Phase 2 construction project. At the ceremony, Yumul commended RNV Construction for doing "such a great job on this stretch of road."



Yumul

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Wage and Hour updates at SHRM general membership meeting on April 18

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will host a general membership meeting, taking place at Kevin's, Aqua Resort Club Saipan on Thursday, April 18, 2024, starting at 9am. Doors will open at 8:30am.

This month's meeting will delve into updates from the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Department. Highlighting the event are guest speakers Dean Tenorio and Feng Daniel Wang, U.S. DOL WHD investigators.

With a wealth of experience and expertise in the field, the two guest speakers are poised to deliver valuable insights and updates for employers and employees regarding enforcement and regulations.

The following fees apply: \$40 for members and \$45 for future members. This meeting will include breakfast.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. (PR)

Extended hours for Division of Revenue and Taxation services

The Division of Revenue and Taxation will extend its operating hours for cashiers and taxpayer assistance services during the 2024 filing season to better serve taxpayers. This extension is intended to provide taxpayers with convenient access to necessary services.

Please note that Rev & Tax offices will be open from 7:30am to 6pm, Monday through Friday, until April 15, 2024.

Rev & Tax would also like to remind our taxpayers that

April 15, 2024, is the deadline to file their 2023 tax return and settle any tax obligations.

Rev & Tax encourages taxpayers to take advantage of our extended hours for assistance or inquiries regarding their tax obligations. For added convenience, you may visit our taxpayer assistance portal

Rev & Tax looks forward to providing our taxpayers exceptional service during the 2024 filing season. (PR)

Revisions on Chamorro-English Dictionary uploaded

Inetnun Kutturán Natibun

Marianas/Kkooor Aramasal Marianas president Isidoro T. Cabrera announced that IKNM/KAM has begun uploading some of the revised Chamorro-English Dictionary by Topping, Ogo and Dungca, 1975, as revised, expanded, edited by the Dictionary Working Groups and others from the community.

Editing work is ongoing and updates will be posted. This project started more than a decade ago by more than 100 individuals from the Marianas and elsewhere. Additional information about this project is available on www.natibun-marianas.org. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 06-2024

Opening date: April 15, 2024

Closing date: May 03, 2024

Location: **SAIPAN**

SALARY

Position(s): (1) Staff Engineer

UNGRADED

Nature of Work

Highly responsible for all engineering programs and activities of CPA.

This employee is responsible for the management and supervision of engineering programs and activities at the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). Work is technical in nature and reviewed through conferences with the Executive Director or his designee and submission of reports. Employee exercises independent judgment in solutions to situations or problems in which no precedents exist. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) and a four (4) year degree in civil engineering from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional engineering level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, May 03, 2024.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerities, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT #05-2024

Opening date: April 01, 2024

Closing date: April 19, 2024

Location: **SAIPAN**

SALARY

Position(s): (1) Staff Attorney

UNGRADED

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than 5:00 P.M. on Friday, April 19, 2024.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerities, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

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LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director



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CNMI GOVERNMENT

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Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID Automated Teller Machine FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-006-24
CPA Concession No.: SAT-2024-01

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations to provide Automated Teller Machine at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning March 15, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed on its austerities days and holidays. The IFB includes a layout and requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than April 2, 2024.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE SERVICES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-006-24." One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 3:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, April 18, 2024, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on April 18, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Meeting Room, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to provide Automated Teller Machine services at a certain designated location within the Saipan International Airport for a period of five (5) years and requires the concessionaire to operate such concession to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date

Special committee to probe depleted \$200M ARPA funds created

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) has created a special committee to investigate the \$200-million in American Rescue Plan Act funds that was invested by the previous administration into a Bank of Guam Trust Account.

In a memorandum issued Monday last week, DeLeon Guerrero appointed Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) as chairperson of the special committee that she established to also investigate the administration's ARPA Spending

Plans for the CNMI for Fiscal Year 2021 to 2024.

The president asked the special committee to report back

» Panel also tasked to investigate ARPA spending plans for FY 2021 to 2024

to her within 60 days.

Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) was appointed vice chairwoman, Sen. Dennis C. Mendiola (R-Rota) as

a member, and Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) as an alternate member.

The president said this investigation is necessary to conduct an accounting of the \$200 million ARPA funds held in the Bank of Guam Trust Account and to determine the expenditures of ARPA funds as proposed in the ARPA Spending Plans for the CNMI for FY 2021 to 2024.

DeLeon Guerrero appointed Senate legal counsel Joe Bermudes, Legislative Bureau fiscal analyst David S. Demapan, and Senate legislative assistants Jolyn D. Tagabuel and

Devin Macaranas to assist the special committee in the investigation.

Last March 18, DeLeon Guerrero requested Department of Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita for information on \$200-million ARPA funds that the previous administration deposited in a trust account.

DeLeon Guerrero also requested Bank of Guam to provide her with all information relating to the trust account at BOG that was opened by the previous administration with former Finance secretary David DLG. Atalig.

Norita said during a press briefing on Monday last week that the \$200 million in ARPA funds was indeed invested by

the previous administration in 2021 and the entire amount was withdrawn and depleted in 2022.

Gas up 10 cents

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI saw another increase in gas prices over the weekend with local oil companies raising its prices by 10 cents.

Last Friday, Mobil Oil Marianas took the lead in implementing an increase in gas prices with Shell Marianas following suit shortly after.

With the recent increase in fuel prices, regular fuel is now \$5.66 per gallon from \$5.56. Mobil also raised its Supreme fuel from \$6.01 per gallon to \$6.11 while diesel is now \$5.93 per gallon.

Members of the community are no longer fazed by the recent increase in fuel prices.

According to a 28-year-old local motorist, she said she hadn't noticed that prices went up.

"I didn't notice until you mentioned it. I feel like increases have been normalized that it doesn't faze me. Maybe if it's a \$1 increase, then maybe I'll feel it but right now, not really," she said.

Another motorist said that he hopes that prices don't get too unaffordable given the economy.

"Everyone is struggling, the last thing we need is gas prices costing an arm and a leg. Gas is a necessity and we can't make a living without it. I really hope it maintains affordable at least," said the 24-year-old.

SABALU

From page 1

they're also preparing to set up their own Saturday market outside the Sabalu Market.

The Division of Parks and Recreation, which is in charge of the Sabalu Market, said a lot of reasons were factored in the decision to move the Sabalu Market to Kagman II.

"There are some issues recently about debris going into the water. When fishermen go out, there's always trash from the Sabalu Market. But we cannot blame the folks at Sabalu Market because a lot of people use that area too. Another issue is that the Sabalu Market is

competing with the boaters with parking. When they go out to launch to go fishing, when the Sabalu Market is going on, there's parking issue also," said Parks & Rec director Michael Cruz.

Camacho and other Sabalu Market vendors, however, appear to be firm in not moving to Kagman II.

"I wouldn't risk it as a vendor, to go that far and my Sabalu Market clients told me already that they wouldn't go. So, sad to say, but I will stop for a while and perhaps just use social media to sell my crops and stuff. With due respect, some tent rental companies also told us too that they would raise payment. I respect the decision but we

just hope that they should've included vendors in a forum or open discussion regarding this matter. This is one of the things in life that comes and I don't have control. I will stop and wait for a closer location rather than Kagman II," said Camacho.

Vendor Esterlita Camacho of Magbers shared that their booth has been involved in the Sabalu Market for over 20 years and has a loyal and steady flow of customers every Saturday.

"For us vendors like Magbers, it's actually not going to affect us because we do not plan to open in Kagman. One is gas, for sure. It's expensive. We're staying in Koblerville and we're not

about to drive all the way to Kagman. Our customers are not happy about it."

She added that she understands the predicament about trash, but in reality, the site doesn't have enough trashcans for attendees in the first place, other than two donated bins at each end of the Sabalu Market ground.

Kasy Santos, of Tuhu's Produkun Lancheru, has mixed emotions about the move to Kagman. "We live in As Teo, so it's close for us."

However, her main issue is about the abrupt announcement.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CABLE

From page 1

through the Marianas.

They were joined by Rear Admiral Gregory Huffman, Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan, Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Citadel CEO Jim Beighley, Broadband Policy Development special assistant Glen Hunter, and other leaders on board the CS *Dependable* vessel that is involved in the laying of subsea fiber cables through the Marianas.

Last week, Palacios had announced a landmark partnership with global technology leader Google that will land the first-ever transpacific fiber optic cable on CNMI shores, which the governor named "Proa" in honor of the traditional sailing vessel symbolic of the local culture and heritage.

According to Google, the Proa subsea cable from Tokyo-based firm NEC will connect Japan, the CNMI, and Guam. To further increase reliability in the region, the NEC cable system Taiwan-Philippines-United States (known as TPU) will be extended to the CNMI. As the CNMI's first international subsea cables, Proa and TPU will together establish a new route between the continental U.S. and Shima, Japan.

"Securing a direct subsea cable connection to Japan, and later, to other parts of the Pacific Rim, is critical as it provides a vital link in the global communication network," said Palacios.

"Google's cable landing in the CNMI will help unlock a range of long-term economic and communication benefits," Palacios added. "CNMI businesses and households can also access even more reliable and high-speed internet, enabling multiple options for seamless data exchange and participation in the global digital marketplace. This improved connectivity can attract new industries and investment, creating local jobs and helping to jumpstart the overall economy." (PR)

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

UNITED

From page 1

these prices became available on April 8, 2024, U.S. mainland time.

Weiss wrote again a letter dated April 10, 2024 to Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) to provide updates on United travel information. The Legislature received his letter on Friday.

The managing director said as noted previously in his letter, these fare categories carry

some restrictions, but also allow travelers to purchase air travel that excludes the cost of amenities the traveler may not want, such as advanced seat assignments and/or checked bags.

He said with revised resident fares, United offers a ticket price \$281 less than the ticket price they see being quoted in the community of \$580 (\$580 less the new, lowest resident fare of \$299=\$281).

Resident fares are intended for local residents and require the travelers to input their island location in the United website or app prior to starting a flight search.

Weiss said in addition, United has adjusted the mileage required to purchase a reward ticket on the Saipan-Guam route to 15,000 miles per direction or a total of 30,000 miles roundtrip.

He pointed out that the rate of 15,000 miles, generally, is among the lowest mileage requirement that United offers on domestic segments with the U.S. mainland.

Weiss said this mileage reduction for reward bookings took effect on April 9, 2024, U.S. mainland time.

"United hopes these price changes will be reviewed positively by the CNMI Legisla-

ture and community at large, and as an attempt by United to partner with our communities," he added.

Last April 1, Weiss wrote a letter to the Legislature to inform lawmakers and the community that United provides fares on the Saipan-Guam route much lower than what appears to have been discussed recently by the Legislature.

He said United offers residents of the CNMI and Guam access to a "resident" fare of \$302 round-trip for basic economy and \$402 round-trip for standard economy, both fares excluding taxes and fees.

OFFICERS

From page 1

Last week, a female inmate (whose identity will remain withheld pending rape allegations) and a male inmate, Gerald Sablan, were found in Sablan's unit at DOC. When they were found, the alleged victim claimed she was forced to have conjugal relations with Sablan.

Last Friday, Torres held a press conference where he shared details about the pending investigation.

One of the most recent updates shared was that since an investigation into the incident was launched, Torres has placed three of his officers who were on duty at the time on admin leave.

Specifically, Torres said among the officers who were placed on admin leave, two are male and one is female. They are a mixture of seasoned and fairly new officers.

"Given it's still a pending investigation, I have three officers who are on admin leave. Until we wrap up this investigation, then I can brief the public on more of the findings," he said.

When asked whether the officers were involved in facilitating the incident, Torres said he could not comment pending investigation.

"With that, given the investigation is pending, I can't comment. How she got there, given it's a pending investigation, I'm not going to comment on that. But staff are not allowed to allow opposite gender inmates to visit one another. Male and female in-

mates are housed in different sections and there are officers stationed in each section. Cross-gendered visits aren't allowed," he said.

In addition to placing officers on admin leave, Torres said additional measures have been implemented or are underway. One of the forthcoming measures, Torres said, is the addition of more surveillance cameras within the facility as the area where the incident happened had none.

"We're also adding more measures; we've transferred Sablan, in May we will be adding more surveillance cameras in the facility, and I'm also looking to obtain grants for body cams for all my officers to wear. That's forthcoming, hopefully sometime this year... There is no surveillance in the area where Sablan is housed.

When this place was built, surveillance cameras were only placed in certain areas so when I came on, I decided we were going to add more cameras. From my understanding, this was because no funding had been identified, but I managed to push it through when I got in," he said.

Torres said he anticipates the investigation to conclude in the next two to three weeks.

As DOC, DOC's Internal Affairs, and the Department of Public Safety continue its investigation, Torres asks that the community remain patient and he ensures that he prioritizes transparency and will provide more information when it is appropriate to do so.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

House passes Radewagen’s South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Uifa’atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) is welcoming bipartisan passage by the U.S. House of Representatives of a bill she led as sponsor, with Congressman Ed Case (D-HI) as the original cosponsor, the South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act, H.R. 1792.

H.R. 1792 is bipartisan congressional direction of full implementation for the South Pacific Tuna Treaty, which has already been diplomatically negotiated among the U.S. and Pacific nations, and legislation is expected to be considered by the U.S. Senate.

“As the representative of the beautiful islands of American Samoa in the South Pacific, a marine economy which depends on fishing, I welcome broad support in Congress for implementing our treaty with our regional friends and neighbors in the South Pacific,” said Radewagen. “This bill implements U.S. international diplomacy to help ensure that our tuna agreements improve operations and flexibility for our fleet—America’s last true distant water fishing fleet. I appreciate working with chairman Bruce Westerman, ranking member Grijalva, and Congressman Case on this priority.”

Natural Resources Committee chair Bruce Westerman (R-AR) said, “H.R. 1792 enhances the effectiveness, clarity, and enforceability of the South Pacific Tuna Treaty of 1988, addressing concerns and improving the regulatory



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Delegate Uifa’atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) speaks on the House floor for passage of her South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act.

framework governing fishing activities between the United States and the PIPs. This bipartisan, commonsense bill will give more flexibility to the U.S. fishing industry and benefit all Americans. Representative Radewagen is no stranger to these issues given American Samoa’s abundant fishing resources, and I’d like to thank her for her leadership and the strong relationship she brings from the Pacific.”

The bill amends the South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 1988 to reflect the amendments to the treaty adopted in 2016. In 2022, the Senate provided overwhelming bipartisan support for advice and consent to ratification, and this bill would complete this long-standing effort, moving into statute what has been operating under a Memorandum of Understanding, and resolving restrictions. The treaty stabilizes high seas fishing days and codifies access to various island nations’ EEZ waters.

The bill was passed by the Natural Resources Committee in October. Prior to that, in July, the bill was examined in a legislative hearing by the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, on which Amata serves, which heard expert testimony including from William Gibbons-Fly, executive director, American Tunaboat Association, who emphasized the last true “distant water fishing fleet” under the U.S. flag operating from Pago Pago Harbor, as “multi-generational, family-owned businesses with a long and storied history as an important part of the U.S. fishing industry.”

Expert testimony noted that the U.S. tuna purse seine fleet has been reduced in a few years time from 34 vessels to 13 vessels, due to numerous severe economic challenges from increased regulation, reduced access, and more competition especially from Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing. (PR)

Radewagen congratulates NCAA champion South Carolina Gamecocks

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Uifa’atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) on Tuesday led her colleagues in the Pledge of Allegiance before House business.

“Leading the Pledge of Allegiance is a reminder of the responsibility of serving, and I’m humbled to have this opportunity on behalf of American Samoa,” said Radewagen.

During House proceedings Tuesday, she gave remarks on the House floor, known as a One Minute speech, to specially honor and congratulate the National Champions South Carolina Gamecocks’ women’s basketball team, and specifically highlight a stand-out Polynesian player, Tehina Paopao, who is of Samoan and Tokelauan heritage.

Paopao this year earned 2nd Team All American honors by the U.S. Basketball Writer’s Association, 2nd Team All-SEC, and is a two-time All-PAC-12 Team honoree, among numerous other awards and accolades in her collegiate career.

“Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the University of South Carolina women’s basketball team; these amazing athletes from my good friend Joe Wilson’s district, completed a perfect season culminating in a National Championship. A special congratulations (Malo le ta’alo fa’atamali’i!) to senior guard Tehina Paopao and her contributions to the team. Tehina Paopao is of Samoan and Tokelauan heritage, and I know our islands always love to see our Pacific athletes excelling on the national stage. She will have lifelong memories of scoring 14 points in the national championship! Congratulations to all her friends and family cheering her on in our Polynesian communities from her home in California and elsewhere. I so enjoyed watching this game that attracted millions of people, with lots of nationwide excitement about this special season, all the great teams competing, and their elevation of women’s sports! Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I yield back,” Radewagen said in her congratulatory House remarks. (PR)

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/S/ CORA P. ADA
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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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Tel. No (670) 234-3751/52/52 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Facebook: facebook.com/DPLCNMI

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 030 D 01, containing an area of approximately 14,255 square meters and Lot 101 D 01, containing an area of approximately 2,610 square meters, in Navy Hill Saipan for a total of 16,865 square meters. A map showing the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- The prospective Lessee is Grace Christian Academy of Saipan. The list of officers for Grace Christian Academy Non-Profit Corporation: Rev. Michael Rodgers as Board of Chairman, Ms. Catherine Harris as Secretary, Mrs. Beatrice Fatialofa as Board Member, Benjamin Vivero as Board Member, and Mrs. Beth Ann Nunez as Principle.
- The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the Board Chairman of Grace Christian Academy, Reverend Michael D. Rodgers.
- The Lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of the operation of a school from kindergarten to 12 grade; and other school and church related activities.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 40 years with an extension of up to 15 years with approval of the Legislature in accordance with P.L. 20-84 (1 CMC § 2806(c)(1)).

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the PM Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

- The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Navy Hill, Saipan.
- The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before April 25, 2024, at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TĀNU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbluku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku mannānā'i huyung nutisia guini put i intension-riha para u ma'atklā metton na tanu' pupbluku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariānas. Maseha hāyi na pattidā intrisao gi halum hiniarāt pupbluku siha muna'hālum upiñon, infotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atklon nu i tanu' pupbluku. Komu mapribeni mās mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbluku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesi na infotmasion manisisisa para u mapupblika.

- I maproponi na atklon tanu' pupbluku madiskribi komu Lot 030 D 01, kunsissisti kāsī 14,255 square meters yan Lot 101 D 01, ni kunsissisti kāsī 2,610 square meters ni gaigi gi hālum Navy Hill iya Saipan para tutāt nu 16,865 square meters. I māpa ni ina'a'annuk i lugāt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku para inspeksion.
- I prospective Lessee i Grace Christian Academy iya Sa'ipan. I listan ufisiāt siha para Grace Christian Academy Non-Profit Corporation: si Rev. Michael Rodgers komu Kabesiyyun Kuetpu, si Siñorita Catherine Harris komu Sekritāria, si Siñora Beatrice Fatialofa komu Membrun Kuetpu, si Benjamin Vivero komu Membrun Kuetpu, yan si Siñora Beth Ann Nunez komu Prinsipāt.
- I maproponi na atklon matātitiyi i regulasion DPL yan ginen manegosiu ni Kabesiyyun Kuetpu nu Grace Christian Academy, as Reverend Michael D. Rodgers.
- I lessee debi na u usa i lugāt put atyu ha' na rason i operasion nu i iskuela ginen i kattiya asta 12 grādu; yan ottru manasosiāt na aktibidāt iskuela yan guma' Yu'us siha.

I teman i maproponi na kuntrātan atklon sa 40 ānūs na tiempu yan i ekstension asta 15 ānūs na tiempu yan i inapruuban i Lehlisatura sigun yan i P.L. 20-84 (1 CMC § 2806(c)(1)).

I maproponi na atklon gi kada' sākkan gi durāntin teman kuntrātan i' atklon mapega gi put sientus i bālān "appraised fair market" i propiedāt yan i aplikāo na put sientus nu i "Business Gross Receipts" gi halum i regulasion DPL.

I kopian nu i maproponi na kuntrātan atklon siha machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i PM Building, giya Tinian. I kopia debi lokku' na u managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

- I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku taya marisibi ni hāfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atklā i suhetu na tanu' pupbluku gi Navy Hill, giya Saipan.
- I Sekritāriun Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku debi na u akseptā tini' upiñon, infotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintires na pattida siha gi pat āntis di Abrit 25, 2024, gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku siha ni gaigi giya Sa'ipan, Luta pat Tinian. I inekkunguk pupbluku siempri magopti yanggin marikuesta gi durānti i tiempun upiñon.

ARONGORONGOL ATKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tāil 106 (b) reel Alléghul Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re isiisiwow arongorong igħa re māngemāngil rebwe atklilay faluweer toulap llof Seipēl, Commonwealth Tēel Falūw kka Efāng llof Mariānas. Schōo kka re tipālī sāngi toulap emmwel rebwe isiisilong ischil kkapas, data, views, ngare angingil ppwomm ikka aa siwel ngālī ppwommwol atklilóónol faluweer toulap. Re bwal ayoora sāngi Alléghul Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e ffil ebwe akkatééwow.

- Ppwommwol atklilóónol faluweer toulap e bwāā bwe Lot 030 D 01, e lo bwe 14,255 reel square meters me Lot 101 D 01, iye e bwāā bwe 2,610 reel square meters, me Navy Hill Seipēl me alongal falūw yeel nge e toowow bwe 16,865 reel square meters. Eyoor móopa me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap reel falūw yeel ngare u mwuschel amwuri.
- Ppwommwol schōól atklilóón nge Grace Christian Academy me Seipēl. Iyeel list-al officers ngālī Grace Christian Non-Profit Corporation: Rev. Micheal Rodgers bwe Board of Chairman, Ms. Catherine Harris bwe Sekkretóoriya, Mrs Beatrice Fatialofa bwe Membrool Board, Benjamin Vivero bwe Membrool Board, Mrs. Beth Ann Nunez bwe Principāl.
- Ppwommwol atklilóón nge e angūingū fēngāl me mwōghutughutūl DPL me e abwugubwug sāngi Board Chairman-i Grace Christian Academy, Reverend Micheal D. Rodgers.
- Schōól atklilóón ebwe yāyā falūw ngālī mwōghutughutūl imwal rāghēfisch e bwe me kindergarten ngālī seigh me ruwoow guróodo; fēngāl akkāāw mwōghutughutūl imwal rāghēfisch me imwal Liyoos.

Ppwommwol abwugubwugul atklilóón nge fāāgh rāāgh fēngāl me extention iye e mwetā seigh me limoow rāāgh fēngāl me ātirow sāngi Sou Allégh (Legislature) bwe e angūingū fēngāl me P.L. 20-84 (1 CMC § 2806(c)(1)).

Ppwommwol atklilóón għal rāāgh atol abwugubwugul atklilóón yeel nge e lo reel percentage-i appraised fair market value reel falūw fēngāl me application percentage reel Gross Receipts llof mwōghutughutūl DPL.

Emmwel ubwe bweibwogh pappidil ppwommwol atklilóón me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipēl; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, Apilómwol Songsong, Luuta; ngare 1st floor me PM Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille ubwe amwuri online me www.dpl.gov.mp

- Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap resāāl bweibwogh pappidil siwelil ppwommwol atklilóónol falūw iye e lo Navy Hill, Seipēl.
- Sekkretóoriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re bweibwogh ischil kkapas, views, angingi ngare siwelil ppwomm sāngi schōol kka re mwuschel wóol ngare mmwalil Abrit 25, 2024, me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap iye e lo Seipēl, Luuta ngare Tchiliyól.

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Going backward in Arizona: Terrible 1864 abortion ban's return is the result of Donald Trump

Donald Trump had really lousy timing to announce Monday that he wanted to return abortion policy back to the states as it was before *Roe v. Wade* and promptly on Tuesday, Arizona returned back to 1864, with an ancient ban on the medical procedure. Oh, Arizona is one of the five states that Trump won in 2016 and then lost to Joe Biden in 2020. Oops.

What's next, some ban going back to colonial times?

The political problem is all Trump's as he scrabbles to contain the fallout he created, while Arizona doctors could soon face two to five years in prison for providing an abortion.

The old law that is the new law bans humanely and compassionately terminating pregnancies for rape and incest victims and in instances of certain fetal death or when the mother's health would be irreversibly impaired, including making her unable to become pregnant again. The sole exception in the 19th century law is to save the woman's own life.

As Trump likes to brag (and as he did so again on Monday), he did this, having stacked the U.S. Supreme Court with three hardliner justices who joined Sam Alito and Clarence Thomas to overthrow a half-century of settled law and stare decisis, apparently the Latin phrase for we get to do whatever we want to do.

Trump was correct after the Dobbs opinion came down nearly two years ago, that it would be bad for Republicans. And it's getting worse.

But more important than the electoral prospects for Republicans and their nominee, Trump, abortion care, guaranteed to American women and girls in every state for decades, is being stripped away. The well-being of millions of real people is at stake in Arizona and who knows where else is next.

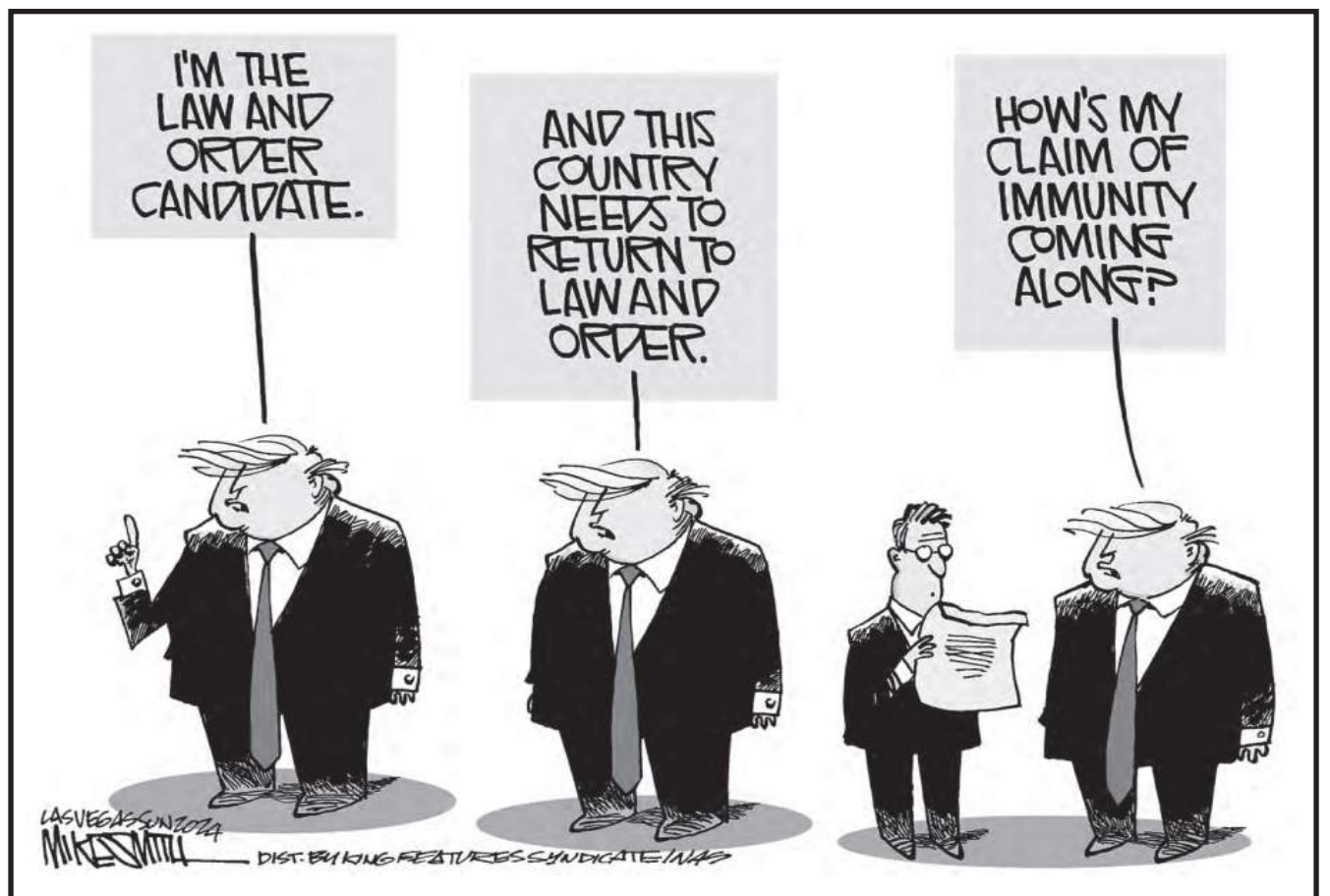
The Arizona Supreme Court decided that without *Roe* and no federal right to abortion, the clock wound back to the very beginning: 1864, when the Arizona Territory was created during the Civil War, being carved out of the New Mexico Territory.

This is not the Old West, it's well before the Old West. In 1864, Deputy U.S. Marshal Wyatt Earp was 16 and not yet living in the territory. He wouldn't move to Tombstone for another 15 years. And the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral wouldn't be until 1881.

Think about it, 1864 was 48 years before Arizona became a state (in 1912) and it was 109 years before *Roe*.

The majority justices of the Arizona Supreme Court didn't write that they wanted to do this, but simply that the 1864 law had been enjoined since *Roe* and without *Roe*,

See **GOING** on Page 7



Happy Tax Day. Are we getting our money's worth?

By **STEVEN HILL**
THE FULCRUM

Here comes Americans' favorite day—April 15, Tax Day! In the land of “No taxation without representation,” we Americans throw a fit over how much we fork over to the government, which taps into related complaints over government waste, budget deficits and more.

Considering how much we focus on the amounts we pay in taxes, you would think more people would also shine a spotlight on what we get in return. A thorough tax analysis would need to create a two-sided ledger, in which all the support and services Americans receive are listed on one side, and the amount of taxes and any additional out-of-pocket expenses, fees and surcharges we pay are listed on the other.

Here's the surprising thing: When you sum up the total balance sheet, it turns out that Americans pay out as much as those “high-taxed” Europeans—but we get a lot less for our money.

In return for their taxes, most Europeans receive a generous support system for families and workers—services for which Americans must often pay exorbitant out-of-pocket fees and surcharges.

That includes quality health care for every single person, the average cost of which is about half of what Americans pay, even as various studies show that most Europeans achieve better health metrics.

But that's not all. In return for their taxes, most Europeans also receive affordable child care, a decent retirement pension, free or inexpensive university education, job retraining, paid sick leave, paid parental leave, ample paid vacations, affordable housing, senior care, efficient mass transportation and more.

In order to receive the same level of benefits as these Europeans, most Americans must fork out a ton of money in out-of-pocket payments in addition to the taxes we pay.

For example, most Americans are paying escalating health care premiums and deductibles, which reduces their effective net pay and acts like a steep tax on households. Moreover, 28 million Americans, nearly 9% of the population, have no health care at all, even though many are working and paying taxes. But most Europeans receive health care in return for a modest amount deducted from their paychecks.

Many parents in the United States are saving nearly \$100,000 for their children's college education, and most young Americans graduate with thousands of dollars of debt. But European students attend for free, or nearly so (depending on the country).

Child care in the U.S. costs over \$18,000 annually—paid out of pocket—for a family with two children, but in Europe it costs about one-third to one-sixth that amount for a family, depending

on the country, and the quality is far superior.

Millions of Americans are stuffing as much as possible into their IRAs and 401(k)s because Social Security only replaces about 40 percent of a worker's income. Many European retirement systems are more generous and replace about 60 percent 75 percent (depending on the country) of workers' income.

The U.S. also spends a lot less of public health dollars on elderly care, resulting in American families self-financing significant amounts for their own senior services, compared to most European countries.

Americans also pay various hidden taxes, such as \$300 billion annually in federal tax breaks to businesses that provide health benefits to their employees. That means Americans with no health care are subsidizing those who do have health care.

When you sum up the total balance sheet, it turns out that Americans pay out just as much as many Europeans—we just end up receiving a lot less for our money. One Norwegian colleague—from a conservative party—remarked to me, “Americans like to talk about family values, but we have decided to do more than talk.” Europeans actually put their money on the barrel.

Certainly, European countries have their own vigorous debate about the right levels of taxation. Income taxes in Europe are high for some people, but the highest rates that generate alarmist headlines in the U.S. are paid only by those in the highest income brackets. Many middle class and low income Europeans don't pay more taxes than their U.S. counterparts. Especially since Americans also tend to pay more in local and state taxes, as well as in property taxes.

Many U.S. politicians say, “The government should let you keep your own hard-earned money in your pocket,” and there's something to be said for that. That has long been the American Way. But the European Way takes some of those taxes and designs more efficient and cost-effective support systems for health care, child care, education, senior care and more. Those are services that all families desperately need in today's quickly shifting economic world to ensure healthy, productive, and happy families and workers.

Most Europeans can count on these forms of support, and for less money out of their own pockets, while most Americans cannot—unless we have the private means to self-pay out of our own bank accounts.

Or unless you are a member of Congress, which of course has made sure that its members' families receive European levels of support.

Happy Tax Day.

Steven Hill was policy director for the Center for Humane Technology, co-founder of FairVote and political reform director at New America.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Commentary: The unforgettable divide of the OJ Simpson trial is still fresh, even in death

I was 13 years old, but I can still recall hearing my mother's shriek like it was yesterday, followed by her repeated words of "THANK YOU, JESUS," over and over again.

Her elation came from the fact that after nine exhaustive and divisive months—centered around the trial of football legend Orenthal James Simpson in the killing of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman—Simpson was acquitted of all charges.

My mother was not obtuse to the fact that two young lives had ended horrifically. Speaking with her on Thursday morning after the news that Simpson had died at the age of 76, she said, "The whole thing is just sad," remembering the gruesome story of Nicole and Ron's death. In the same breath, she also vividly recalled how the whole tale forced friends, neighbors, and colleagues into factions. You either stood with O.J. or you didn't.

"And honestly, I still believe to this day that side depended on what color you were," she said. "As a Black person, you didn't want to believe he could do something so heinous, but at the same time, you were around so many white people who just believed at their core he was guilty, and you wanted them to be wrong about it. About us."

The O.J. saga coincided with a time in my family's life when we were all thrust into a great deal of cultural change. We had been a year into a move from Hunting Park to Ardmore to be closer to my single mother's new role as a geriatric nurse at a Main Line hospital. She had been working there for about a year, intending to move her kids to what she believed were

safer confines and better schools.

Ardmore was an idyllic place to grow up. The silence, compared to the police sirens I heard on any given night in our previous home, was jarring. But Ardmore was devoid of a great deal of diversity, or in my mind at that time, people who understood that there was life that didn't look like the Main Line.

I vividly recall spending much of my childhood trying to justify my presence as the only Black person in a classroom, at a social gathering, or on a soccer field to white people who wanted to know how I got there. It was exhausting.

Come to think of it, it's what I imagine living in Brentwood, Calif. would be like—not in the sense of million-dollar properties and luxury cars lining the streets, but the close-minded belief that anyone who didn't come from this life isn't on the same level, especially if they're a person of color.

No one ever wondered how O.J. landed in Brentwood. He was football royalty, in addition to being a beloved actor and entertainer. Simpson never saw himself as Black or white before his trial, famously telling a journalist that his biggest accomplishment was "people look at me like a man first, not a Black man."

But that 1995 trial cast a completely different light. His defense team used race as a staple for his acquittal—and it worked. The verdict given to Simpson made many people of color, including my mother, come out in support of him, carrying a torch for a man they'd never met because his acquittal in some odd way meant we were all free. Free to be in spaces

By **KERITH GABRIEL**

The Philadelphia Inquirer



not readily associated with us. Free to continue to consider ourselves worthy of the same opportunities and justice.

But the trial also divided people. It broke up friendships, closed off contact with acquaintances, and as my mother recalled, turned colleagues into enemies.

"It was surprising," she said. "People you worked with for years were just a bit more cold after that verdict. You didn't bring it up because you didn't want to cause a stir. You didn't celebrate publicly. The conversations I had about the trial were only with other Black people. It was just a weird time in this country because that trial wasn't just about O.J., you saw just how raw race relations still were in this country and how far we still had to go."

Coincidentally, to take a trip down the timeline of social threads on Thursday on the subject of Simpson's passing, decades removed from the trial that captivated a nation, it's evident the ball hasn't moved too far toward the goal line.

College costing nearly \$100,000 a year? Forgiving loans is the least we can do

President Joe Biden is at it again with student loan forgiveness.

Last summer, the Supreme Court ruled that he couldn't use the HEROES Act—passed after 9/11, just as the Iraq War was escalating—to forgive federal student loan debt for roughly 20 million borrowers. Since then, his administration has been exploring other mechanisms to provide piecemeal relief. In February, he introduced the SAVE Plan, which helped nearly 153,000. This week, he outlined plans that could lift a financial burden off the shoulders of more than 30 million people in a country where more than 70% of people live check to check.

Some conservatives have accused Biden of trying to buy votes—as if Donald Trump offering tax breaks to a room full of billionaires was a policy-motivated decision. Others point out the president is only doing this to fulfill a campaign promise, which, for some reason, I thought was part of the job.

However, the most prevalent response to Biden's attempt to forgive student loan debt is summed up in this quote from Malcolm X: "Envy blinds men and makes it impossible for them to think clearly."

Nearly 60% of graduates of public universities in Texas had nearly \$25,000 in loan debt in 2021. Almost 1.4 million Texans would have gotten relief from Biden's first attempt. Two Texans with student loan debt sued the administration because they weren't eligible. The case was tossed. But the suit highlights just how much this conversation is about individual fairness as opposed to societal benefit.

In America, the childless pay for schools they don't need, and city dwellers pay for county roads they'll never drive on. That kind of economic cooperation is needed in a land as vast as ours. Economist and author Robert H. Frank often writes about how the shift from society to self in our policies has really undermined our ability to be happy for others. And stats over the last 50 years support it. From 1949 to 1979, the incomes of the bot-

tom 20% grew faster than those of the top 1. That started to flip with the trickle-down economic policies of Ronald Reagan.

The rich got richer because the poor got poorer. But because it appeared everyone on television and in magazines was doing so well, relative deprivation—feeling the need to "keep up with the Joneses"—replaced common sense.

Our homes got bigger even though our salaries didn't because we took out bigger mortgages. Our credit card debt has exploded. And now some private colleges, such as Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tenn., are flirting with \$100,000-a-year price tags. This threatens to anchor a generation to debt that may take a lifetime to pay off. Can you imagine beginning your working life with \$400,000 in debt and only a bachelor's degree to show for it?

Student loan debt isn't an impediment to the ultra-rich, who pay out of pocket for college, or even for many in the upper middle class, who have connections to turn their \$400,000 degree into a \$200,000-a-year starter job.

But for the bottom 20% of earners in our society, people who once had a chance to climb up the economic ladder, college has become a treacherous option. They need the degree to have any hope of getting ahead over their lifetimes; an undergraduate degree is like a sail to speed up their earnings. But the debt that now comes with a degree is an unforgiving anchor slowing them down.

That may appear like a personal problem for people who grow up in those lowest-earning households. But like public schools and country roads, we all need college to be accessible for people from all economic backgrounds. Out-of-control college costs and crushing student debt are everyone's problem.

The annual cost to attend eight of our best schools averages more than \$90,000. Today Americans are carrying nearly \$2 trillion in debt (\$150 billion just among Californians) for something that was once so affordable, a one-parent income could cover tuition for multiple children and still pay the mortgage.

Those days are long gone. What's been put in its place is un-

By **LZ GRANDERSON**

Los Angeles Times

LZ Granderson is an Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



sustainable. Biden's attempts to forgive student loan debt don't heal the wound or stop the damage to students of today and tomorrow, but they slow the bleeding for workers whose paychecks vanish into servicing insurmountable student loans.

Biden's latest effort won't directly help me. It may not help you. But should we let envy cloud our minds? Any help with college costs and loans is better for society as a whole than none. Why is it so hard for people to be happy for others?

GOING

From page 6

the old came back to life.

Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs has been urging the Republican legislature to erase the 1864 statute since she took office in January 2023, but she noted that both the GOP speaker of the House and the GOP Senate president backed an amicus "urging the court to do exactly what it did." Like we said before, oops.

Arizona voters may have an abortion question on the ballot this November (such a question is still yet to be certified) and if so, they will likely vote the same way Americans in every other state have voted to support abortion rights and oppose abortion bans.

And even if there is no referendum, the voters will know who set their state back 160 years.



DANDAN MIDDLE SCHOOL 25TH Anniversary

25 years of empowering students and enriching the community

By NHORLEEN BITCO-LILLES
Special to Saipan Tribune

Dandan Middle School, formerly known as Dandan Elementary School, was established in 1999 as a temporary measure to alleviate overcrowding at San Vicente Elementary School.

Over the years, DMS has been led by six principals: Frances Taimanao (1999-2000), Andresina Dela Cruz (2000-2001), Jonas Barcinas (2001-2009), Martha Kintol (2009-2014), Lynn Mendiola (2014-2019), and James Sablan (2019-present).

Their leadership has facilitated the school's expansion in student population and solidified its presence as a cornerstone in the community. Along with the teachers and staff, DMS has worked hard to create an environment that fosters well-rounded individuals with strong parent and community involvement which strives to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dandan Middle School's MyWave Club group poses for a photo after their "Use Dance" performance at DMS' 25th Anniversary Tottot Bash on April 5, 2024.

continue with what they value in their students and hopefully prepare them to be contributing members of the community.

DMS is committed to cultivating and inspiring creative, future-ready, and well-rounded lifelong learners who pos-

sess the integrity and self-direction necessary to be valuable contributors to society. Their vision is for all stakeholders to be committed to encouraging and challenging the whole child by providing a safe and respectful student-focused environment

that fosters a rigorous academic and technological curriculum that will prepare students to become productive citizens and future leaders.

VALUES & PRINCIPLES

Over the past two decades, it is the value and principles of DMS that guided their approach to education. They believe in a balance of cultivating their students' academic, social, and emotional needs. Starting with their ESLRs (Expected School-wide Learning Result) and peacebuilder program, DMS is focused on the CNMI Public School System's five strategic priorities and the Character Strong program, which centers on social and emotional learning. DMS is also a "Future-Ready" school that integrates technology in learning and activities and provides students with one-to-one devices to make sure they are ready for the technological age. Along with their mission and vision,

they set goals for their students, staff, and parents and strive to improve every year.

MOST NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT

DMS proudly considers its enduring legacy as its most notable achievement, having surpassed 25 years since its modest beginnings as a temporary school.

According to Cathy Borja-Flores, DMS library media specialist, and Elaine Cabrera, DMS 6th grade science teacher, "We have watched families come and grow, and a strong sense of community is what we have. Some teachers are veterans, who have worked here as early as the first five years and have overlapped teaching here when we were an elementary school and transitioned to middle school."

"We also have veteran teachers that were from other schools, and an influx of new teachers. We learn together and

grow as educators, providing the best education possible based on our skills and experience. We love the opportunity to meet new parents and reconnect with those who have been part of our community in the past. Our annual events have consistently attracted families to our campus over the years, such as the Cultural Day, Bunny Bash, Trunk N' Treat, and the Tottot Bash," they added.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

DMS as well as CNMI PSS strive for the academic success of students, focusing on standards-based curriculum and supplemental programs that support and enhance student learning.

In their elementary years, DMS worked heavily with the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library to provide parents with the Motherread/Fatherread program and the Bookmobile. They have also hosted celebrity readers, where community members read to the students, with guest speakers from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Department of Public Safety, Systems of Care, Homeland Security, and Project Hope, just to name a few. DMS also collaborates with Marianas Tourism Education Council under the Marianas Visitors Authority with the MyWave club and participates in the

See **STUDENTS** on Page 9



Congratulations

on 25 years of making a difference in the lives of students. Happy Anniversary, Dandan Middle School!



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Thank you so much!

Dandan Middle School faculty and staff would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to all those who took part in this year's annual Tottot Family Bash.

Donations (Prizes and Logistics)

- Pacific Islands Club (PIC)
- Saipan World Resort
- 670 Rock Steady
- Tulevino Farms
- Aquas Resort Club
- JET Holdings Co.
- Lane Bull
- DMS Saipan
- Tan Holdings
- Marfraz Saipan
- Saipan Yegre
- Hansen's Modern Bakery
- Bridge Capital, LLC
- Marianas Variety
- Saipan Tribune
- DMS Parent Council Inc
- Patrick Cepeda
- Cong. Ray Adia
- Cong. Diego Camacho
- Cong. Ed Progal
- Cong. Roman Benavente
- Cong. Joseph Flores
- Cong. Yvonne Alzon

Community Vendors

- Cong. Edmund Vilagomez
- Senator Edith Delon Guerrero
- Marianas High School (MHS) Betlehem
- Department of Fire and Emergency
- Medical Services
- Mr. & Mrs. Kay/Amanda AngilDiaz
- Mrs. Michelle Iyosmar
- Mrs. Malorie Kidal
- Mr. Rocio Carasco
- Enoree Luis John B. Castro
- AmeriCorps members: Raymond Talarino, Justin Dellos, Johanna Mayar, and Elysa Romerique
- DMS Admin, Staff and Faculty

School Clubs / PTSA

- DMS Student Council Advisory Panel (SCAP)
- DMS Athletics Club
- PCI Bouncy House
- PCI Dunk Tank
- Marianas High School (MHS) Team
- Marianas High School Mock Trial Team
- Dandan Middle School - 8th Grade
- Dandan Middle School - 6th Grade

Entertainment

- Dandan Middle School MyWave Club
- Marianas High School Police Club
- MHS Refill/Smoothie Culture Club (MCC)
- MHS Marianas Cultural Club (MCC)
- Regional Entertainment Uprising
- Xtreme Fitness 670 Zumba
- Johanna Mayar

Congratulations to our raffle winners!

- Ticket #4423 Kristine Briones - \$10 Gift Certificate to Jaws Joe's Café
- Ticket #3195 Dorian Reyes - Gift Bag from DMS Saipan
- Ticket #3164 Polaris - Gift Bag from Marfraz Saipan
- Ticket #4230 Jani May Tudela - \$20 Gift Certificate to 670 Rock Steady
- Ticket #3140 Polaris - \$20 Gift Certificate to 670 Rock Steady
- Ticket #3912 Javi - \$20 Gift Certificate to 670 Rock Steady
- Ticket #3103 J. DMS - \$20 Gift Certificate to 670 Rock Steady
- Ticket #2208 Mary Talar - \$20 Gift Certificate to 670 Rock Steady
- Ticket #5121 Polaris - World Resort Water Jungle Water Park pass for 2
- Ticket #1024 Mike Tlig - World Resort Water Jungle Water Park pass for 2
- Ticket #2649 Hudson Iyosmar - 1st Prize = \$100
- Ticket #2535 Khloe Diaz - Baby Grand Prize = \$200
- Ticket #0863 Marivic Vergel - Grand Prize = \$300



In honor of our 25th year anniversary, we'd like to recognize all our school principals who have served our DMS family. Thank you all for dedicating your time to Dandan Elementary and Middle School. Your leadership and guidance has and always will leave a lasting mark in the foundation of this campus and its achievements.

Frances Taimanao (1999-2000)	Jonas M. Barcinas (2001-2009)	Lynn O. Mendiola (2014-2019)
Andresina T. Dela Cruz (2000-2001)	Martha Kintol (2009-2014)	James DLG. Sablan (2019 to present)

STUDENTS

From page 8

Red Cross Walk-a-thon and other events that support the community. They aspire to maintain these collaborative efforts with the community and various organizations, expressing gratitude for the significant support extended by government leaders, including those from the House of Representatives, Senate, Saipan Mayor's Office, and the Office of the Governor.

INITIATIVES & PROGRAMS

DMS fully supports clubs and organizations as well as encourages students to participate in community events and student competitions. The PSS Athletics program has provided many opportunities for students to participate in a multitude of sports which has been expanding every year such as cross country and track and field. There's also MyWave and DMS' student council and advisory panel which always participates in MVA's Christmas in the Marianas every year. The MINA Club, SEA Club, and Gardening Club collaborate on initiatives related to green energy and agriculture. Concurrently, the school's National Junior Honor Society engages in community service activities. These clubs frequently join forces to participate in beach clean-up efforts. The clubs in DMS promote education, leadership, service, community involvement, performing arts, athletics and so much more.

When reflecting on stories that truly embody the essence of the school's dedication, Cabrera recalls a poignant moment: the Cultural Club's involvement in the Marianas March Against Cancer. Amidst numerous impactful experiences, this event stands out vividly for her. With a performance and a booth, their participation throughout the night demonstrated the student's and teacher's unwavering commitment to important causes.

"The students were excited to participate in such a large community event. Several teachers and students had experienced the loss of a loved one to cancer and the depth of support and empathy they extended toward one another and their educators was beyond words. They were so nervous, but they worked so hard to show their community spirit, and to support each other. There were some tears during the practices, and the students all chipped in to buy luminaries for the teachers and classmates who had lost their loved ones. It was an emotional performance. The students decided to run the laps all through the night, and

we stayed with them. We had families and staff come and go all through the night, and the love and connection we had as a group was something that I have never experienced again. We even had some students just reading and doing homework, all while hanging out laughing, crying, and running together. It is something that we will never forget," Borja-Flores and Cabrera recalled.

ROLE OF PARENTAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The role of parental and community involvement is truly important and according to Cabrera, "Parents and families are the backbone of student learning, and partnering with them and hearing their concerns and advice has greatly impacted the school in the direction and the decisions that we make," Borja-Flores and Cabrera said.

"We present data and work together to tackle the issues together. Parents and guardians are welcome to contact the administration or teachers with any questions or concerns. Families support their children and the school when they come to cheer our Tottots during events and academic competitions. We have an annual parent summit where we brainstorm to continue our successes and address our weaknesses. Without the parent involvement, events such as the Tottot Bash would not be possible. Families in the community strengthen the learning environment and the achievement of their children," they added.

PREPARING STUDENTS BEYOND MIDDLE SCHOOL

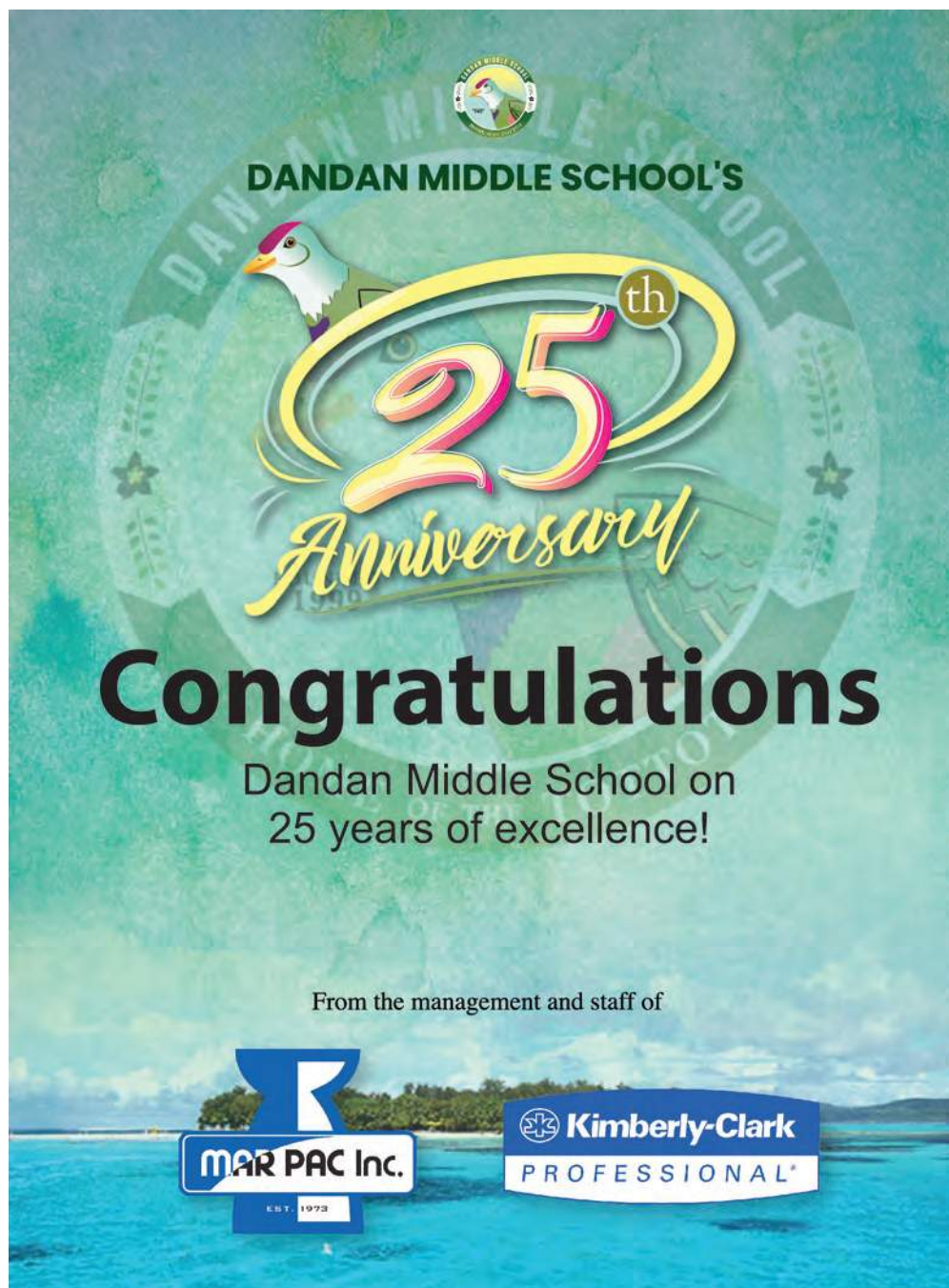
DMS looks at all aspects of the child, from their academics to their social and emotional growth, working on skills for students to be successful in the classroom, and helping them to become critical thinkers and decision-makers. The school provides opportunities for leadership and collaboration with clubs, pep rallies, and events, and takes Leadership Corps classes that heavily focus on virtues and practices that will be essential in middle school and throughout adulthood. Careers and technical education provide students with experiences in different fields and DMS supplies them with computer literacy classes and teachers integrate technology into their lessons to ensure that they will be ready for the technological world. They take CCLHS, Chamorro, and Carolinian language and heritage studies, so that they understand the culture and language of where they live. Physical education, MAD, and MPC teach them to become responsible for physical health. With all these classes,

the core contents of English, Math, Social Studies, and Science, they are provided with a rich and rigorous curriculum. DMS also has a library that supports the students' learning, alongside counselors who provide them with the emotional care that they need. Combined with a strong administration team and support staff, the students are surrounded by experienced adults that focus on putting "Students First."

GOALS FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS

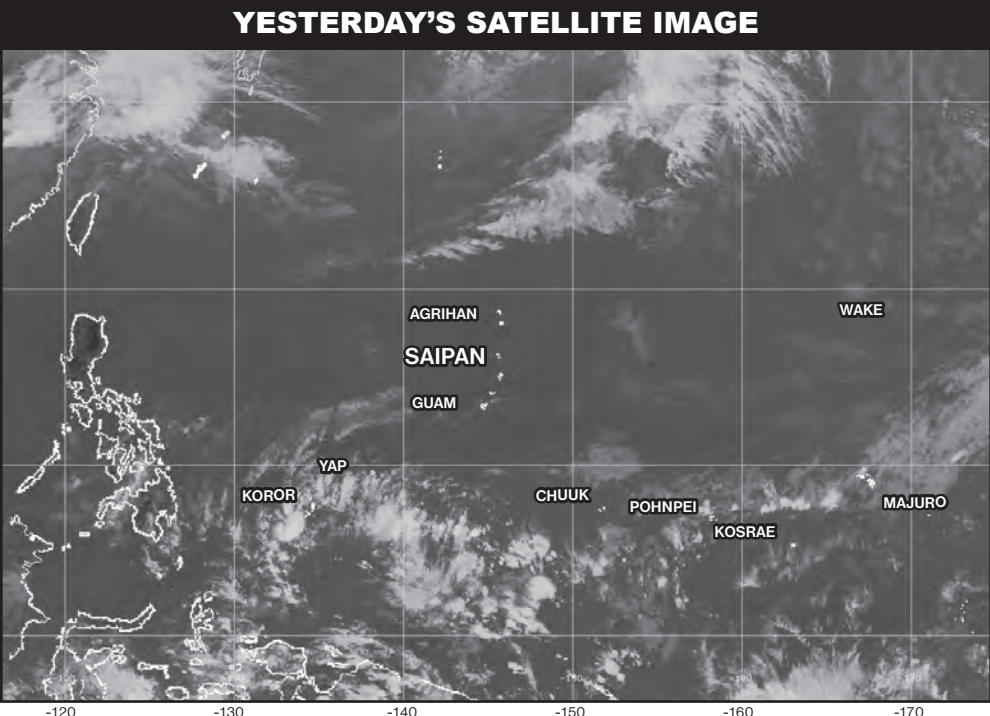
When asked what are their goals are for the next 25 years, DMS wants to hold true to its mission and vision and strive to align itself with the goals of the CNMI Board of Education and the Public School System. They want to continue focusing on their students and their academic, social, and emotional growth.

"We hope to still be around for the next 25 years, making a difference to each child, whether it be a great or a small impact. We aspire to provide qualified educators to continue to teach our children and build a strong sense of community with our parents, guardians, families, and community partners. We want our community and especially our students to feel that 'Once a Tottot, always a Tottot,' Borja-Flores and Cabrera said.



The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Mostly clear. Isolated light showers. Northeast to east winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly clear. Isolated light showers. Northeast to east winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers.	
88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 6:13 AM SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite observations reveal scattered low clouds across Guam and a few clouds across the rest of the Marianas. Gentle to moderate winds prevail and showers remain isolated in nature. Altimetry shows seas between 5 and 7 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Palau	Light Rain Shower	88° / 81°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 82°	
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Light Rain Shower	89° / 78°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 78°	
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:06 AM	11:26 AM
Tuesday	-	12:58 AM	12:22 PM
Wednesday	-	1:44 AM	1:15 PM
Thursday	-	2:25 AM	2:06 PM
Friday	-	3:02 AM	2:53 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:10AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Life & Style

Executor of OJ Simpson's estate plans to fight payout to the families of Brown and Goldman

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The executor of O.J. Simpson's estate says he will work to prevent a payout of a \$33.5 million judgment awarded by a California civil jury nearly three decades ago in a wrongful death lawsuit filed by the families of Simpson's ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman.

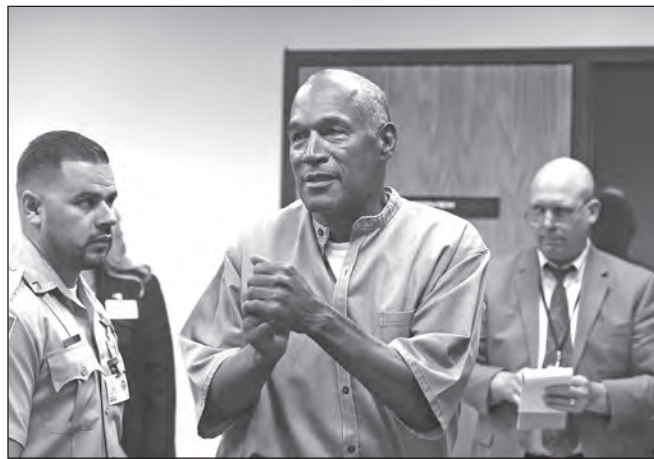
Simpson's will was filed Friday in a Clark County court in Nevada, naming his longtime lawyer, Malcolm LaVergne, as the executor. The document shows Simpson's property was placed into a trust that was created this year.

LaVergne told the Las Vegas Review-Journal that the

entirety of Simpson's estate has not been tallied. Under Nevada law, an estate must go through the courts if its assets exceed \$20,000.

Simpson died Wednesday without having paid the lion's share of the civil judgment that was awarded in 1997 after jurors found him liable. With his assets set to go through the court probate process, the Goldman and Brown families could be in line to get paid a piece of whatever Simpson left behind.

LaVergne, who had represented Simpson since 2009, said he specifically didn't want the Goldman family seeing any money from Simpson's estate.



AP
In this July 20, 2017 file photo, former NFL football star O.J. Simpson reacts after learning he was granted parole at Lovelock Correctional Center in Lovelock, Nev.

"It's my hope that the Goldmans get zero, nothing," he told the Review-Journal.

"Them specifically. And I will do everything in my capacity as the executor or personal

representative to try and ensure that they get nothing."

LaVergne did not immediately return phone and email messages left by The Associated Press on Saturday.

Although the Brown and Goldman families have pushed for payment, LaVergne said there was never a court order forcing Simpson to pay the civil judgment. The attorney told the Review-Journal that his particular ire at the Goldman family stemmed in part from the events surrounding Simpson's planned book, titled "If I Did It." Goldman's family won control of the manuscript and retitled the book "If I Did It: Confessions of the Killer."

Judge dismisses lawsuits filed against rapper Drake over deadly Astroworld concert

HOUSTON (AP)—Hip-hop artist Drake has been dismissed from a lawsuit over the deadly 2021 Astroworld festival in Houston in which 10 people were killed, a judge has ruled.

Drake was a special guest of rap superstar Travis Scott, who had headlined the festival. He performed with Scott at the end of the concert on Nov. 5, 2021, as the crowd surged and attendees were packed so tightly that many could not breathe or move their arms or legs. Authorities and festival organizers were trying to shut down the show.

The families of the 10 people who died during the concert, as well as hundreds who were injured, sued Drake, Scott and Live Nation—the festival's promoter—as well as dozens of other individuals and entities.

Many of those who were sued, including Drake and Scott, have asked state District Judge Kristen Hawkins to dismiss the lawsuits against them.

On Wednesday, Hawkins dismissed Drake from the case in a brief order.

Lawyers for Drake, whose full name is Aubrey Drake Graham, had argued during a court hearing April 1 in Houston that he was not involved in putting the concert together so was not liable for the deaths and injuries that had occurred.

During a deposition he gave in November in Toronto, the Canadian rapper said in the moments before he took the stage, no one told him that people in the crowd were suffering cardiac arrests or other injuries. He said when he was on stage, the crowd looked like a blur and he couldn't make out any details.

In the deposition, Drake was shown a video that the youngest victim, 9-year-old Ezra Blount, took as he sat on his father's shoulders.

"Do you see the panic in those people's eyes?" an attorney asked Drake about the video.

CBS says its daytime show 'The Talk' will end its run in December after 15 seasons

"The Talk" is ending its long-running daytime conversation.

The CBS talk show will end in December after 15 seasons, the network announced Friday.

"The Talk" was created by actor Sara Gilbert with the idea of a group of female hosts speaking about hot topics and current events, much like ABC's "The View." Gilbert said in a 2011 interview with The Associated Press that it was based on her actual group of "mom friends" who would gather to chat. She liked the idea of "a motley crew you would never really put together, but then suddenly there's all this commonality."

The show debuted in 2010 with hosts Gilbert, Sharon



AP
From left, hosts of the CBS talk show "The Talk" Akbar Gbajabiamila, Amanda Kloots, Sheryl Underwood, Jerry O'Connell and Natalie Morales pose for a photo for the season 14 premiere which aired Feb. 23, 2023.

Osbourne, Julie Chen, Leah Remini and Holly Robinson Peete. Marissa Jaret Winokur was enlisted as a roving reporter who would be in the

field. A hosting shake-up occurred after the first season. Winokur's position was axed, and Peete and Robinson were replaced by Sheryl Under-

wood and Aisha Tyler.

"The Talk" would go on to have a number of hosting changes over its run. In 2018, Chen left the show after her husband, then-CBS Corp. boss Les Moonves was fired due to sexual misconduct allegations. Gilbert left her on camera post in 2019 but remains an executive producer. Osbourne's departure in 2021 made headlines following a heated on-air discussion about racism between Osbourne and Underwood.

Underwood is the only person from the early days of "The Talk" who remains on the show today. She sits alongside Natalie Morales, Amanda Kloots, Jerry O'Connell and Akbar Gbajabiamila.

Woman rages at husband for getting a good job

DEAR ABBY: My niece, "Elle," and her husband, "Liam," have been self-employed for 20 years, but due to the economy, Liam decided to go into the workforce. He is now employed at a state job with great pay and benefits for them and their four children.

Our family is elated for him and his family, except Elle. It's unbelievable how determined she is to get her husband fired. She can't stand for Liam to be away from her. She fights daily with him, telling him he has "chosen a job over his family." They were always a nice family unit, but now Elle is destroying it because of the insecure, overbearing control she needs to have. It's heartbreaking to see, especially since their teenage kids are looking for other places to sleep due to the constant arguments.

I wish I could make Elle understand that this job means they will no longer be struggling financially, but she doesn't care. She wants to be near Liam at all times. The situation is awful. I can't believe they may end up in divorce court because her husband got a great state job. Your thoughts on this, please?

HELPLESS IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR HELPLESS: I think your niece's insecurity and insistence on having her husband on a short leash at all times is unhealthy, to say the least. She needs professional help, and Liam should insist upon it. If she refuses, he will

then have to decide whether the current status of their marriage is something he wants to tolerate for the foreseeable future and plan his next steps accordingly.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I retired six years ago and moved from California to Texas. I have two grown sons, and my husband has two grown daughters still living in Cali. My husband's oldest daughter (50) just came to visit along with her 10-year-old daughter.

On the Sunday they were to leave, my husband was to take them to the airport in the morning and leave me home to read my Sunday paper. Before they left, his daughter wanted a picture of all of us together. I told her I didn't want a picture taken in my nightgown, but she said it would be only from the neck up. I acquiesced, and she took the shot.

Two days later, former clients of mine from California posted on Facebook how glad they were to see me look so happy in retirement. My husband showed me the Facebook posting of me from the waist up in my nightgown on his daughter's page!

I don't go on Facebook, I don't want my likeness on Facebook, and I'm not happy that after expressing my feelings about having my picture taken in my nightgown, his daughter put me on Facebook. Isn't it common decency to ask someone before arbitrarily posting their picture on Facebook?

NOT HAPPY IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR NOT HAPPY: I am going to assume that your husband's daughter didn't post the family picture on her page to inflame you. She may have forgotten her promise to you. Because this isn't the impression of your happy retirement you want to convey, ask her to take it down and hope she complies. If she doesn't, do not pose for any more family pictures when she's behind the camera.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Pastimes

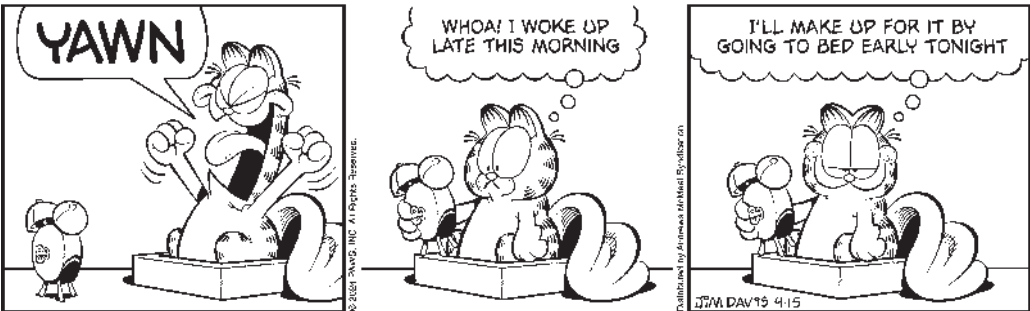
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



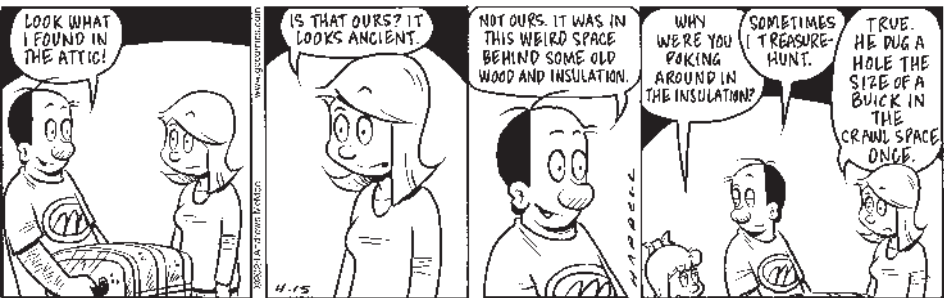
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Curved lines
5 Vat
8 "Let's go!"
12 Boxing match
13 Pub pint
14 Exceptional
15 Expose
16 Levy that helps fund schools
18 Set sail
20 Gnawing critter
21 High tennis shots
23 Fish-fowl link
24 Insurance giant
28 Thailand, once
31 French monarch
32 Thin pancake
34 "Hail!"
35 Stereo alternative
37 Governor's guideline

39 Sheeran and Harris
41 Crooned
42 Size up
45 Trailled the pack
49 Idaho nickname
51 Cleopatra's river
52 Some JFK guesses
53 Acquired
54 Lena of "The Reader"
55 Comic Carvey
56 Mornings (Abbr.)

57 Aussie greeting
DOWN
1 French cleric
2 Wander
3 Street edge
4 Big bargains
5 Computer screen features
6 Last (Abbr.)
7 Denizen
8 Beliefs
9 Fabric
10 Algerian port
11 Adjacent

17 Heavy weight
19 Campus mil. group
22 Dele
24 Branch
25 Privy
26 Football official
27 Shoulder ornaments
29 Director
30 Kitten's cry
33 Sicilian volcano
36 Black Sea port
38 Yule quaff
40 Concorde, e.g.
42 Matured
43 — good example
44 Long story
46 Coat with gold
47 Kazan of film
48 Contradict
50 Male cat

Solution time: 21 mins.

Last Friday's Answer

R	A	P	H	E	A	P	C	H	A	R
F	M	U	O	R	C	A	R	I	D	E
P	A	R	D	O	N	E	R	O	R	Z
S	I	H	I	D	E	I	O	W		
T	B	I	R	D	V	E	X	R	I	A
A	I	I	Y	P	I	S	M	A	C	S
I	F	F	J	A	M	M	A	N	F	T
C	U	R	S	O	R	S	A	C		
B	A	M	B	A	A	R	A	R	A	T
A	V	C	R	P	A	R	K	W	A	Y
N	F	X	T	T	O	F	D	S	S	S

Happy Birthday: Settle in and follow through with your plans. Separate and categorize. Strive for perfection, detail and organization. Use your intelligence to overcome and conquer. Recognize opportunities and be willing to accept change that will help you reach your goal. Walk away from high-pressure situations. Show your strength and courage, and be the one who makes a difference using kindness and compassion. Your numbers are 3, 14, 21, 28, 33, 37, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Walk away from drama. Focus on getting things done and sticking to your agenda. Look over your investments and adjust whatever needs updating. Look for an opportunity, and you'll discover a path to new beginnings. The aim is to stabilize, not disrupt. Personal growth is favored. ☼☼

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be creative, step outside your comfort zone and try something new. A change will revitalize you and encourage you to visualize what you want. Hesitation will lead to regret. Act instinctually, and don't look back. Direct your energy wisely and avoid emotional setbacks. ☼☼☼

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stop being so accommodating, and start to do things that fulfill your needs. Be a good listener, but don't take on other people's battles. Put personal goals first and focus on fitness and a look that boosts your ego. Make health, love and happiness your destinations. ☼☼☼

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take the initiative and strive for a position that will increase your profile and get you closer to your objective. Refrain from letting anyone talk you into something that will throw

you off course or put you behind schedule. Do what benefits you most. ☼☼☼

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be a leader, set the pace and put your energy where it counts. Don't expect everyone to understand your motive or plan or to join in and help you. Forward motion based on what matters most to you will offer peace of mind. ☼☼☼

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Shake things up, try something different and change your routine or location. Think twice before you allocate money. Consider how your donation will benefit you or your community regarding concerns, contributions and concessions. Know what part you are willing to play before you commit. ☼☼☼

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep your head down, stay out of trouble and go about your business. Move money, secure investments, and adjust documents and appointments to suit your lifestyle. Refuse to bicker over trivial matters. Compromise. ☼☼

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Tidy up and move on to something more enjoyable or creative. An energetic approach will encourage positive change and give you an edge over anyone who cares to compete with you. Keep your eye on your target, and don't fold under pressure. ☼☼☼☼

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let someone else handle sensitive issues. Trust yourself. Invest time and money into acquiring knowledge, upgrading skills and personal growth. Pay attention to detail and look for alternatives that fit your budget and lifestyle. Personal gain and physical improvement are favored. ☼☼☼☼☼

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Rely on yourself if you want things done correctly. A domestic change will help eliminate tension and distance you from situations causing you grief. Protect against unnecessary arguments, insults and injuries. Secure and protect your position, finances, possessions and health. ☼☼☼

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Think twice before agreeing to join a joint venture. You will need more than sharing expenses or working alongside a neighbor, relative or peer to exceed your expectations. Offer suggestions, but don't commit or make yourself liable for someone else's mistakes. ☼☼☼

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Carry on, do your thing and enjoy the results. Refuse to let anyone pressure you into something that stands between you and what you have your heart set on accomplishing. Consider who and what are disposable and distance yourself from dead weight. ☼☼☼☼☼

Birthday Baby: You are charismatic, helpful and sensitive. You are dynamic and imaginative.

☼: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7			9					8		
5	4	6	2	7	8			1		
								7	5	2
9	8			6	7	2			1	
	1			9						6
	3							9		
8		1	4	2		9	7			
3	6		7		5					
4			3			1	6			

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	9	4	8	5	3	6	2	7
7	3	6	9	4	2	5	8	1
8	2	5	1	6	7	9	4	3
4	5	9	7	3	6	8	1	2
2	7	8	5	9	1	4	3	6
3	6	1	2	8	4	7	5	9
5	8	3	6	1	9	2	7	4
9	1	7	4	2	5	3	6	8
6	4	2	3	7	8	1	9	5

Difficulty: ★ 4/15
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DRAGONS' DEN (CANADIAN TV SERIES) Solution: 5 letters

F	Q	C	B	C	I	N	V	E	S	T	O	R	L	R
S	U	L	E	Y	M	A	N	P	Y	T	I	U	Q	E
R	E	N	L	B	A	R	T	E	R	W	G	O	H	G
E	S	L	D	A	U	R	E	K	U	O	T	T	N	R
F	T	E	L	E	H	C	I	M	M	N	L	I	G	E
U	I	D	L	S	D	S	K	K	S	A	H	N	I	M
S	O	D	E	A	R	L	E	N	E	M	O	A	S	T
E	N	A	I	R	S	V	O	W	E	O	S	V	A	B
R	S	D	C	A	I	S	V	S	R	R	O	E	E	A
U	M	A	H	N	N	A	E	T	U	O	M	I	D	R
T	A	N	G	I	L	N	D	N	A	R	B	A	I	T
N	N	A	K	U	O	H	E	R	J	A	V	E	C	L
E	J	C	E	J	Z	R	E	A	L	I	T	Y	R	E
V	I	N	C	E	N	Z	O	M	E	A	D	E	N	T
D	T	Y	R	A	E	L	O	S	T	E	V	E	N	T

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Last Friday's Answer: Coast Guard
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-5480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Castellanos' walk-off rallies Phillies past Pirates, 4-3



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—

Nick Castellanos hit a walk-off, bases-loaded single in the ninth inning, Kyle Schwarber homered and the Philadelphia Phillies rallied to beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 4-3 on Saturday.

Alec Bohm added an RBI for the Phillies, who moved over .500.

Oneil Cruz homered for Pittsburgh.

Schwarber led off the ninth with a single to right off Jose Hernandez (1-1), and Trea Turner walked to put runners on first and second with no outs. Both advanced on a wild pitch.

Hernandez struck out Bryce Harper for the first out, and Pirates manager Derek Shelton lifted Hernandez for Roansy Contreras. Pittsburgh intentionally walked Bohm to load the bases before Castellanos laced a first-pitch, 95-mph fastball over center fielder Jack Suwinski.

Jeff Hoffman (2-0) pitched a 1-2-3 ninth to cap an impressive outing by Philadelphia's relievers, who struck out seven, walked one and allowed one hit in five scoreless innings.

REDS 5, WHITE SOX 0

CHICAGO (AP)—Nick Lodolo struck out 10 in 5 2/3 solid innings in his first big league start in almost a year, and Cincinnati beat Chicago.

Cincinnati scored five runs in the second against Garrett Crochet, and Lodolo took over from there. The 6-foot-6 left-hander allowed one hit—Robbie Grossman's infield single leading off the sixth—and walked one. He also hit two batters.

Reds slugger Elly De La Cruz went 0 for 3 with two strikeouts, but he walked in the ninth to reach safely for the 19th consecutive game dating to last season. He hit a three-run homer in an 11-1 victory over the White Sox in the series opener on Friday night.

YANKEES 3, GUARDIANS 2, 1st GAME

YANKEES 8, GUARDIANS 2, 2nd GAME

CLEVELAND (AP)—Oswaldo Cabrera hit a two-run homer and New York beat Cleveland in the first game of a split doubleheader to match the best start in their famed history.

Juan Soto hit a three-run homer and Cody Poteet pitched six solid innings in his debut for New York as they won the second game to sweep a doubleheader over Cleveland Guardians and continue one of the strongest starts in their storied history.

The Yankees are 12-3 for the seventh time and first since 2003, when they made one of their 40 trips to the World Series. They're 8-1 on the road.



Philadelphia Phillies' Nick Castellanos, left, is doused by teammates Bryson Stott, right, Brandon Marsh, center, after hitting a walkoff single in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates, Saturday, April 13, 2024, in Philadelphia.

TWINS 11, TIGERS 5, 12 INNINGS, 1st GAME

TWINS 4, TIGERS 1, 2nd GAME

DETROIT (AP)—Minnesota took advantage of a bases-loaded walk, a three-run error by Detroit third baseman Zach McKinstry and three-run homer by Matt Waller in the 12th inning to beat Detroit in the first game of a doubleheader.

Edouard Julien and Willi Castro homered and Minnesota beat Detroit in the second game.

The Tigers struck out 27 times in the doubleheader and 42 times in a 24-hour span including Friday's rain-delayed 8-2 win.

Simeon Woods-Richardson (1-0) allowed one run on two hits and a walk in six innings in the second game. Cole Sands pitched the final 2 1/3 innings for his first save of the season.

ROYALS 11, METS 7

NEW YORK (AP)—Salvador Perez had four RBIs on two hits and Bobby Witt Jr. scored four times to lead Kansas City to a win over New York.

The four-run game was the second of the week for Witt, who scored four times in Thursday's 13-3 win over the Houston Astros. He just missed scoring a fifth run in the sixth inning Saturday, when Brandon Nimmo robbed him of a three-run homer with a leaping catch at the right-centerfield wall.

Perez, who won the 2015 World Series MVP when Kansas City beat the Mets in five games, also homered and Nick Loftin collected a career-high three RBIs as the Royals improved to 10-5—just the seventh time in franchise history the Royals have won at least 10 of their first 15 games.

BLUE JAYS 5, ROCKIES 3

TORONTO (AP)—Daulton Varsho hit his second career grand slam, Yariel Rodríguez struck out six over 3 2/3 innings

in his major league debut and Toronto beat Colorado.

Rodríguez allowed one run, four hits and two walks. The right-hander signed a five-year deal with Toronto in the offseason after pitching in Japan in 2022.

Rodríguez was promoted from Triple-A Buffalo before the game. He started in place of right-hander Bowden Francis (1-2), who came on in relief of his new teammate and allowed two runs and three hits in 2 1/3 innings.

Tim Mayza and Chad Green each pitched one inning and Yimi Garcia struck out the side in the ninth for his first save.

MARLINS 5, BRAVES 1

MIAMI (AP)—Josh Bell homered, Max Meyer allowed one run over six innings, and Miami beat Atlanta for their first home win of the season.

Bell hit a fly ball off Braves starter Chris Sale that sneaked over the left-field wall of a windy loanDepot in the first inning. It was Bell's second home run of the season.

Meyer (2-0) continued his strong start, limiting the Braves' high-powered offense to one run on six hits while striking out a career-high seven batters and not issuing a walk.

Meyer picked up his first career win last Sunday against St. Louis with six innings of one-run ball on three hits. The 25-year-old Meyer, who is ranked as Miami's third-best prospect by MLB Pipeline, missed last season recovering from Tommy John surgery.

GIANTS 11, RAYS 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Logan Webb allowed one run over seven innings, Thairo Estrada homered twice and San Francisco cruised past Tampa Bay.

Webb (1-1) scattered six hits in his fourth start of the season. The 2023 NL Cy Young Award runner-up lowered his ERA

from 4.86 to 3.80.

LaMonte Wade Jr., Jorge Soler and Matt Chapman also homered for the Giants, who entered with a seven-game longball drought. It was the team's longest power outage since a seven-game stretch in June 2014.

Rays catcher Ben Rortved pitched the final two innings and allowed one run and three hits. He struck out pinch-hitter Tyler Fitzgerald on a 75.6 mph pitch during a scoreless eighth and gave up Chapman's homer in the ninth.

Estrada hit a fourth-inning solo drive off Ryan Pepiot (1-2) and Wade added a two-run shot in the fifth that put San Francisco up 4-1.

RED SOX 7, ANGELS 2

BOSTON (AP)—Triston Casas hit a long two-run homer in a four-run first inning and Boston cleaned up their season-long defensive problems in a victory over Los Angeles Angels for their first home victory of the season.

Masataka Yoshida added two RBI singles for the Red Sox. They opened 0-4 at home while committing eight errors that led to nine unearned runs. For the season, they made 14 accounting for 15 unearned.

But on Saturday, they were clean in the field, including a nice play up-the-middle by shortstop David Hamilton that led to a force out. The game ended with a nifty 6-4-3 double play.

NATIONALS 3, ATHLETICS 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—MacKenzie Gore tied a career high with 11 strikeouts, CJ Abrams hit an RBI triple and Washington beat Oakland.

Gore (2-0) tossed five scoreless innings, throwing 90 pitches and striking out the last five batters he faced. He struck out the side in the fifth before giving way to the bullpen. Nationals pitchers combined for 18 strike-

outs. Kyle Finnegan recorded his fifth save of the season.

Abrams, who has hit safely in eight of the last 10 games, had a one-out RBI triple in the third inning to give the Nationals a 1-0 lead. Luis García Jr. made it 2-0 in the sixth with an RBI double.

ASTROS 9, RANGERS 2

HOUSTON (AP)—Kyle Tucker doubled twice and had three RBIs and Jose Altuve added three hits and drove in two runs as Houston used a seven-run seventh inning to break a tie and coast to a victory over Texas.

The Astros snapped a four-game skid and bounced back after allowing the Rangers to score their season high in a 12-8 win in the series opener.

The game was tied at 2 and the bases were loaded with one out in the seventh when pinch-hitter Victor Caratini's RBI single to right field off José Ureña (0-1) put the Astros on top.

Altuve followed with a double to the corner of left field to send two more home and push the lead to 5-2. Austin Pruitt took over and intentionally walked Yordan Alvarez before Tucker doubled to center field to score two more.

Houston made it 9-2 when Alvarez scored on a sacrifice fly by Yainer Diaz.

BREWERS 11, ORIOLES 5

BALTIMORE (AP)—Jake Bauers hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the fourth inning and Milwaukee slugged their way to a victory over Baltimore.

The Brewers have scored 58 runs in their last six games, with at least seven in each of them. That streak ties a franchise record set in 1982 and 1989.

Milwaukee spotted the Orioles a 4-1 lead in the second inning but didn't stay down for long on a day when the wind at Camden Yards seemed to suit the hitters better than the pitch-

ers. Rhys Hoskins also went deep for the Brewers, and Ryan Mountcastle, Jordan Westburg and Adley Rutschman homered for Baltimore.

Elvis Peguero (3-0) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings, the first of five relievers who kept the Orioles off the scoreboard.

Dean Kremer (0-1) allowed six earned runs and 10 hits in four innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, CARDINALS 2

PHOENIX (AP)—Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit a three-run homer, Ryne Nelson threw six solid innings and Arizona beat St. Louis.

Gurriel's big blow came in the sixth, giving Arizona a 4-1 lead. The left fielder lined a low fastball from Kyle Gibson into the left field seats, barely clearing the wall. The 30-year-old's off to a hot start this season with a .317 batting average and four homers after re-signing on a \$42 million, three-year deal during the offseason.

Nelson (1-2) had easily his best outing of the season after entering the game with an 8.22 ERA. The right-hander gave up one run on seven hits and a walk, pitching into the seventh before giving up a leadoff single to Mason Wynn. He struck out four.

CUBS 4, MARINERS 1

SEATTLE (AP)—Shota Imanaga allowed one unearned run over 5 1/3 innings, Michael Busch homered in his third straight game and Chicago beat Seattle.

Seiya Suzuki and Miguel Amaya also hit solo home runs for the Cubs. But the focus was on Imanaga (2-0) continuing the excellent start to his major league career and some timely defense from third baseman Christopher Morel in the sixth to keep the Cubs in front.

DODGERS 5, PADRES 2

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mookie Betts had three hits and two RBIs, rookie Gavin Stone retired his first 15 batters and Los Angeles defeated San Diego Padres in a game delayed more than two hours by rain.

Stone (1-1) allowed two runs in 6 2/3 innings for his second major league win. The right-hander was perfect until issuing a leadoff walk in the sixth to Tyler Wade, who was quickly erased on a double play.

Kyle Higashioka then singled for San Diego's first hit. Jackson Merrill also singled and the Padres tied it 1-all on a double by Fernando Tatis Jr. Stone got Jake Cronenworth on a line drive to center field to end the inning, and the Dodgers went ahead to stay with three runs in the bottom half.

The last day of the NBA regular season is Sunday. Expect chaos and lots of it

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



Maybe it's parity. Maybe it's chaos.

Either way, the final day of the NBA's regular season should be wild.

Oklahoma City, Minnesota and Denver all have a shot at No. 1 in the Western Conference. Every seed from No. 2 to No. 8 is up for grabs in the Eastern Conference. Sunday's slate, with all 30 teams playing, will see nine seeds get decided, three first-round playoff matchups determined and three play-in matchups set as well.

"There's so many possibilities and different things that can happen that just you kind of have to lock in to your team or you'll drive yourself crazy watching other games and wishing and hoping," Phoenix guard Devin Booker said. "So, either way, you're going to match up with somebody and we have to be ready to do that."

A primer for the final day:

WHAT WE KNOW

Boston is No. 1 in the East and has home-court advantage throughout the NBA playoffs. The Los Angeles Clippers are No. 4 in the West and will open the playoffs against No. 5 Dallas. And No. 9 Chicago plays host to No. 10 Atlanta in an East play-in elimination game on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Playing their final games of the season on Sunday: Brooklyn, Toronto, Charlotte, Washington, Detroit, Houston, Utah, Memphis, San Antonio and Portland.

Everything else is still up in the air.

WEST 1 THROUGH 3

Contenders: Oklahoma City, Minnesota, Denver.

Schedule: Phoenix at Minnesota, Denver at Memphis, Dallas at Oklahoma City.

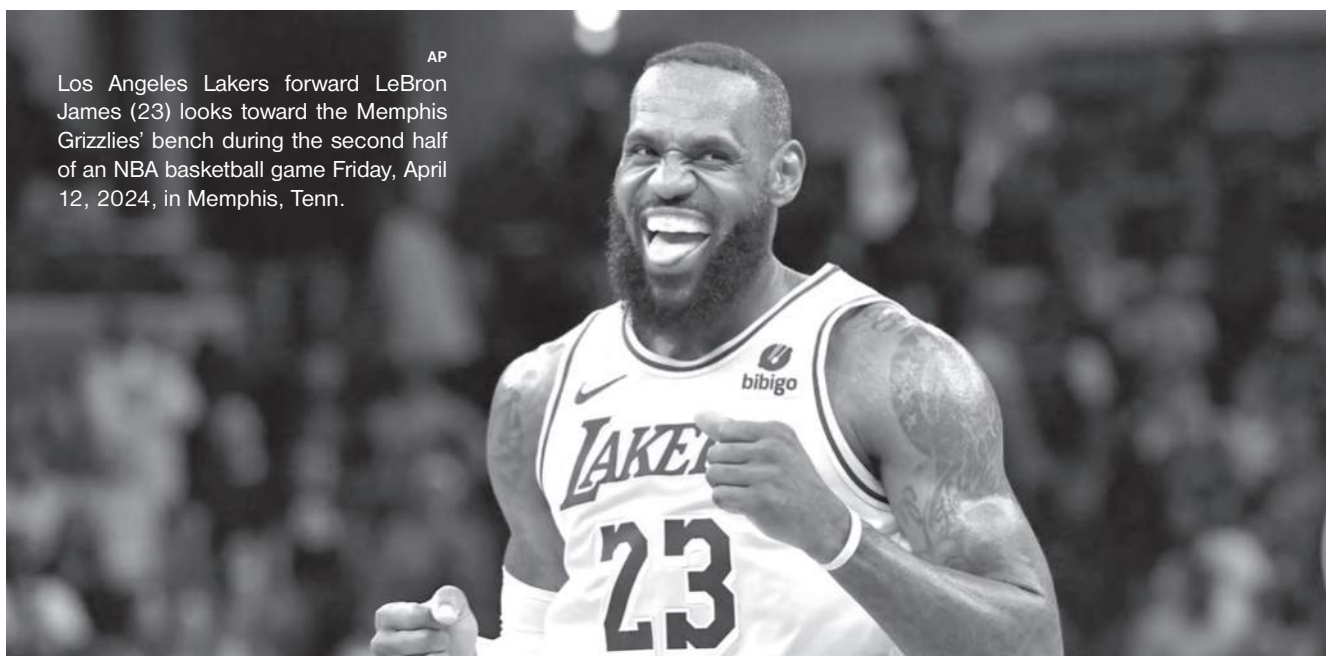
Outlook: This is the first time that three teams all have the same record (56-25) and all have a shot at the No. 1 seed in a conference going into the final day.

The only scenario where Denver gets the No. 1 seed is a win and losses by both the Timberwolves and Thunder.

Minnesota gets the No. 1 seed with a win and a loss by either the Nuggets or Thunder.

Oklahoma City gets the No. 1 seed if all three teams win, if all three teams lose or with a win and a Timberwolves loss.

Quotable: "The big exponential jumps come from small incremental steps."—Oklahoma City coach Mark Daigneault, after the Thunder won Friday. OKC improved its win total by 16 last year and has done that again this season.



AP
Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) looks toward the Memphis Grizzlies' bench during the second half of an NBA basketball game Friday, April 12, 2024, in Memphis, Tenn.

EAST 2 THROUGH 4

Contenders: Milwaukee, New York, Cleveland.

Schedule: Milwaukee at Orlando, Chicago at New York, Charlotte at Cleveland.

Outlook: For the Bucks, it's simple. Win at Orlando, and Milwaukee is the No. 2 seed. The Bucks would also finish second with a loss, as long as the Bulls and Hornets also both win.

New York can get to No. 2 with a win and a Milwaukee loss. Cleveland's only path to No. 2 is a win and losses by Milwaukee and New York.

Quotable: "A scouting nightmare. We know we'll be between 2 and 4. That's a certainty. Other than that, we don't know anything. ... The good news is, no matter what, we'll

be at home for Game 1."—Milwaukee coach Doc Rivers.

EAST 5 THROUGH 8

Contenders: Orlando, Indiana, Philadelphia, Miami.

Schedule: Milwaukee at Orlando, Atlanta at Indiana, Brooklyn at Philadelphia, Toronto at Miami.

Outlook: Truly bonkers. All four teams have a shot at finishing fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth. Obviously, two will miss the play-in tournament entirely and go straight to the playoffs.

Orlando is playoff-bound with a win. The Magic would be No. 5 with a win and a Pacers win, or with a win and wins by both the Hawks and Nets, or if all four contending teams lose.

Indiana is also playoff-bound with a win. The Pacers get to No. 5 with a win and a Magic loss.

Philadelphia's only path to No. 5 is to win and for Indiana to lose.

And reigning East champion Miami (which got to the NBA Finals out of the play-in last year) has one path to No. 5—win and see the other three teams lose. The Heat could get to No. 6 with a win, a Magic loss and the 76ers and Pacers combining to go 1-1 on Sunday.

Quotable: "We control our own destiny still."—Orlando coach Jamahl Mosley, after the Magic lost to Philadelphia on Friday night.

WEST 6 AND 7

Contenders: New Orleans, Phoenix.

Schedule: Los Angeles Lakers at New Orleans, Phoenix at Minnesota.

Outlook: Phoenix must win and the Pelicans must lose for the Suns to get to No. 6. Anything else, Phoenix is No. 7 and play-in bound, New Orleans is No. 6 and playoff-bound.

Quotable: "Go Lakers."—Phoenix guard Devin Booker.

WEST 8 THROUGH 10

Contenders: Sacramento, Los Angeles Lakers, Golden State.

Schedule: Portland at Sacramento, Lakers at New Orleans, Utah at Golden State.

Outlook: If the Lakers win, they're the No. 8 seed. The Lakers could lose and still be No. 8 if both the Kings and Warriors lose.

Golden State's lone path

to No. 8 is a win plus wins by Portland and Utah. The Warriors can get to No. 9 and host one play-in game with a win and a loss by either the Lakers or Kings.

Sacramento gets to No. 8 with a win and a Lakers loss.

Quotable: "Of course, seeds matter. But wherever you fall, you take that challenge."—Lakers forward LeBron James.

RACE TO THE BOTTOM

No matter what happens Sunday, Washington and Detroit will both finish with winning percentages under .200.

This is the fifth season in NBA history where two teams have been that bad, the first since New Jersey and Minnesota pulled off the ignominious feat in 2009-10. It also happened in 1998-99 (Vancouver and the Clippers), 1997-98 (Denver and Toronto) and 1996-97 (Vancouver and Boston).

DRAFT IMPLICATIONS

Detroit, Washington and the third-worst team in the league will have the best chance of winning next month's draft lottery at 14% apiece. If Charlotte loses in Cleveland, the Hornets are assured of having a 14% chance as well.

A loss doesn't guarantee the No. 1 pick for the Hornets, of course—but a win raises the chances that they could emerge from the lottery outside the top three and possibly even pick as low as No. 9.

Iverson immortalized with sculpture alongside 76ers greats Erving, Chamberlain

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP)—Yes, there is something quite wry about the fact Allen Iverson was immortalized in his crossover pose at—of all sites—the Philadelphia 76ers' practice facility.

Practice. Not where the Sixers play their games. Practice.

Almost 22 years after AI ranted about "practice" 22 times in an often-spoofed news conference—see, Ted Lasso—even Iverson got a kick out the location of the sculpture unveiled Friday on the team's Legends Walk, joining the likes of Julius Erving, Wilt Chamberlain, Charles Barkley and Maurice Cheeks. The Hall of Famer who made "talking about practice" a permanent part of the pop-culture lexicon is now a permanent part of the Sixers' home.

"I could sit out a practice," Iverson said after the ceremony. "Play me in the games."

Few played better in the games for the Sixers than Iverson, who won four scoring titles, an NBA MVP award, and led the franchise to their last trip to the NBA finals in 2001.

His numbers stamped him as one of the NBA's greats.

His legacy stretched beyond the court, the undersized guard with the supersized heart mak-

ing the hip-hop element cool in the NBA with his braids, his tattoos, his throwback jerseys—heck, the NBA even instituted a dress code in large part to wipe out Iverson's influence. His dogged style of play has been emulated to this day by everyone from Russell Westbrook to Ja Morant to even Philly's own All-Star, Tyrese Maxey.

Never, ever, though, duplicated.

Iverson was feted with a ceremony that nearly rivaled his Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame induction. Former Sixers teammates and executives Pat Croce, Billy King, Rasheed Wallace, Eric Snow and Aaron McKie posed with and praised AI. Even retired NFL receiver Terrell Owens shot video of the tribute and snapped photos of the statue. Former coach Larry Brown—who famously clashed through the years with Iverson—was in the house.

"Me and Coach didn't see eye-to-eye on things," Iverson said. "But he wanted the same thing that I wanted out of my career and our team goals. Once I bought into that, that's what turned me into an MVP basketball player. That turned us to a team that were winners, that

could go to the finals and compete with the best teams."

The 165-pound guard averaged 31.1 points in 2001, was the MVP of the All-Star game and propped an entire franchise on his 6-foot frame all the way to the finals.

Guided by Brown, the Sixers needed Game 7 wins in consecutive playoff series for the right to play the Los Angeles Lakers. Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant and the Lakers swept their way through the postseason before Game 1 in Los Angeles.

Iverson had 48 points in 52 minutes of an overtime victory. The Sixers didn't have enough to go the distance and the Lakers won the next four games.

Iverson is still connected with the franchise as a team ambassador and occasionally pops up at a courtside seat and receives a roaring standing ovation each time he is announced to the crowd. Iverson complained last year that his role with the Sixers was "nowhere near what I think it's supposed to be" but any unhappiness appeared to be smoothed over. Sixers coach Nick Nurse has invited Iverson to spend more time around the team to offer his voice in a mentorship role.

"They came up to me and said that they would love to talk to me about different things on the basketball court and I just love and respect that they respect me because they know I've been through what they're going through at a high level," Iverson said. "So I'm trying to have my voice be heard as much as possible. I'm doing a lot of things with the organization and I just think that I'm blessed to have that opportunity, to have that relationship with the organization after I retired."

So, about that statue. Much like Iverson, the tiny depiction took a beating on social media for not being properly life-like for a statue. But it wasn't built for sizes normally found outside sports stadiums, but rather is part of a row of similarly-sized ones that line a private walkway that only players, employees and executives (and the media) can access at the practice facility.

"How do you think I got that good? I had to practice," Iverson said. "I just thought it was a bad rap on me. One day I'm walking in the streets and people come up to me and say 'Practice? We're talking about practice?' and I be like, 'Man, out of

all the things I accomplished in my career, that's the only thing you can come up with?' Crazy."

Iverson wore a Roman numeral III chain (in honor of his retired No. 3 uniform number) and other Sixers gear including a hat that read "LEG3ND" as he yanked off the cover of the statue. Iverson's statue shows him wearing a headband and about to launch the crossover—a seminal move in his career that once bewildered Michael Jordan—with a basketball affixed to his outstretched left hand. Part of the inscription said Iverson's "toughness made him unstoppable."

As Iverson surveyed the friends, former teammates and family that included his mother that flocked to New Jersey, he could only choke back tears as he expressed his thanks.

"When you think about the statue," Iverson said, "that's a representation to y'all people that helped me. To everyone that played a part in my development and in my life. When y'all see that statue, y'all could feel good about the part that y'all did in helping me with my life. This is such an honor, man. It don't even seem real."

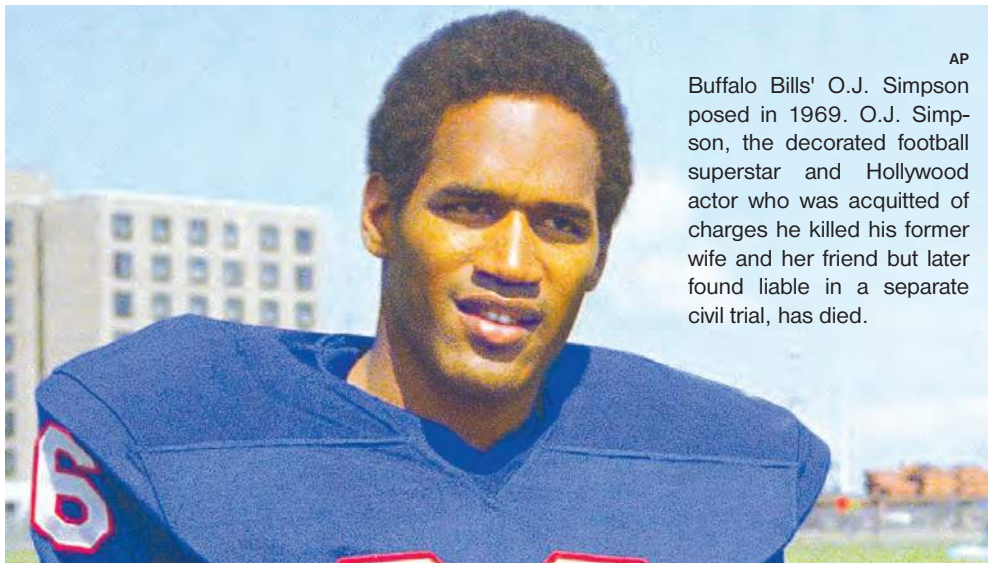
BEFORE MURDER CHARGES TARNISHED HIS LEGACY**OJ Simpson was one of the NFL's greatest running backs**By **ROB MAADDI**

AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



Long before the Bronco chase gripped a national television audience and the "Trial of the Century" captivated the country, O.J. Simpson was making his mark on the football field.

The Juice was the best running back of his era during an 11-year NFL career mostly played with the Buffalo Bills. He won a national championship and a Heisman Trophy in college and set records in the



AP
Buffalo Bills' O.J. Simpson posed in 1969. O.J. Simpson, the decorated football superstar and Hollywood actor who was acquitted of charges he killed his former wife and her friend but later found liable in a separate civil trial, has died.

NFL. But Simpson's accomplishments on the field were overshadowed and his image was forever ruined by charges that he killed his former wife and her male friend in 1994. Though he was acquitted of murder, Simpson was later found liable for the deaths in a separate civil case.

Simpson's tarnished legacy resulted in a muted reaction to news of his death Thursday. He wasn't acknowledged publicly by the NFL, the Bills or the San Francisco 49ers, where he played his final two seasons.

The Pro Football Hall of Fame issued a statement attributed to its President Jim Porter that said: "O.J. Simpson was the first player to reach a rushing mark many thought could not be attained in a 14-game season when he topped 2,000 yards. His on-field contributions will be preserved in the Hall's archives in Canton, Ohio."

Simpson's name remains on the Bills' Wall of Fame, which rings the inside of Highmark Stadium, known as Rich Stadium during his playing days. That could change in a few years when the Bills move into a new stadium set to open across the street in 2026. Fans previously petitioned the team to remove Simpson's name from the wall.

Otherwise, there are very few reminders of Simpson's time playing in Buffalo. No statues. Many of his teammates and friends have moved away or died.

"He and I had a bumpy start and then we had a great relationship throughout," former Bills defensive back Booker Edgeron told the AP. "Because he was a celebrity. And in his ways, he just didn't understand. He was a young guy. He didn't understand the game of professional football and what all the guys went through. He just didn't react to the veterans as I thought he should have. Like, disrespect

and everything. But once we got to know each other and everything, and then eventually when we became roommates for that one year, from that point on, he and I had a very good relationship."

After his success at USC, Simpson didn't initially live up to the hype and expectations of a No. 1 overall draft pick. He averaged 642 yards and four touchdowns in his first three seasons with the Bills and some thought he would be a bust.

Then the arrival of coach Lou Saban in 1972 changed the trajectory of Simpson's football career. Saban built Buffalo's offense around Simpson's skills. That led to his breakout.

The 6-foot-2, 212-pound Simpson ran more with grace than power, though he could push through defenders for that extra yard or two. He danced and juiced, dodged and eluded tacklers, using his instincts to find open space that allowed him to use his speed to outrace the defense into the end zone.

Simpson rushed for 1,251 yards and six TDs in Saban's first year in Buffalo. He followed up with one of the greatest seasons in league history, rushing for 2,003 yards and 12 scores in 1973 while earning the NFL Most Valuable Player award.

Simpson accomplished that remarkable total in 14 games and his record of 143.1 yards rushing per game still stands. Simpson topped 1,000 yards in each of his next three seasons and 1975 was his best all-around effort.

He rushed for 1,817 yards and 16 TDs and had 426 yards receiving and seven more scores that year. A knee injury ended his season early in 1977 and Simpson finished his career in San Francisco, where he grew up.

NMI

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step toward his goal of hopefully joining the 2024 Micro-nesian Games this June.

For Mercado from Harvest Christian Academy, she said the tournament was "very tough." She said, "All the competitors were very motivated and alive to play the sport so I'm just really happy to be here playing against great players."

With this being her last year as a junior player, she said she's excited to have qualified for Fiji. "I'm definitely going to train harder because this is my last year," she said. When there, she plans to win and "take it on without any overconfidence because the players over there last year were really good and this year, they're probably even better."

NMI tennis team head coach Jeff Race, for his part, said of the boys' sweep, "We have a very good group of



LEIGH GASES

In the girls U16 division, NMI's Hoo Wang, left, settled for the No. 2 spot in the Top 4 qualifying spots for Fiji, while teammate Irin Chung clinched third place in the conclusion of the North Pacific Regional Championships on an unpredictably rainy and sunny Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. In this photo, they congratulate each other on a point during their girls U16 doubles finals matchup.

boys 16-and-under players. All of our players are strong."

Overall, he said, "I think it was a good week for the NMI National Junior tennis team."

Race added that they'll now prepare for the upcoming competitions. "We have a lot of competitions coming up and it's just a never-ending

process these days," he said.

He then said, "Our most sincere thanks to our wonderful tournament director, Lydia Tan, and the hard-working staff Savita Sikkell, Cody Race, Rie Nekai, Serin Chung, and the moms who helped with the lunches."

The tourney was organized



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Top 2 in the girls U16 division, Guam's Leila Mercado, right, and NMI's Hoo Wang pose for a photo during the awards ceremony of the North Pacific Regional Championships last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association and funded by the Oceania Tennis Federation and International Tennis Federation.

Results of the girls and boys U14 single and doubles and girls and boys U12 team division will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

RUIZ

From page 16

in all the Run Saipan races since the Trinity Run last January and plans to race in more. "I'm basically addicted to this and I love it," he said.

As for the event that celebrates School Library Month and National Library Week, the musician said, "I work at a school so I know knowledge is the biggest thing in this world because without knowledge we

make a lot of mistakes. We can basically avoid those mistakes by having all this knowledge before doing what we do."

For Bang, she said that the course was very familiar to her as she's run that route often. She did say that the start time of 5pm in the afternoon is kind of inconvenient especially on a Saturday because of all the other things that people have going on at the same time. Other than that, she said the event was great. Her daughters are frequent library-

goers and said, "they love the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. They read books there and also do their homework there. I also love that place."

Joeten Kiyu Public Library director Erlinda Naputi thanked Run Saipan and the participants before the race. "To all the runners that are here to support the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, we are truly grateful and humbled by your support. All funds raised today will go toward our 2024 Summer Reading

Program," she said. "We can't thank you guys enough for all the hard work that you did Run Saipan, the staff of the JKPL, Dr. Ron Snyder, but most especially to all you runners and the little kids that are here today."



LEIGH GASES

Alexandra Birnbirch, dressed up as a Koopa Troopa from Super Mario/Gecko Boy, racked up the most votes with 27 registered participants in the concurrent Literary Character Costume Contest of the 2024 Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library 5K Community Fun Run/Walk that spanned from the Garapan Public Market parking lot to Quarter Master Road and back last Saturday afternoon.



LEIGH GASES

Participants and staff of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library pose for a group photo during the 2024 Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library 5K Community Fun Run/Walk at the start/finish line at the Garapan Public Market parking lot last Saturday afternoon.

2024

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The Top 7 will be included in the playoffs and will be vying for the championship."

Tenorio said it'll be about 5-6 months long depending on the weather as it comes into the rainy season.

Before the opening game tonight, he said an awards ceremony for last season will take place to award last season's winners. "We never got to it because we were so busy and we apologize for delaying it," said Tenorio.

"We would like to thank the [Northern Marianas Sports Association] and their staff Nate [Guerrero] and Janelle [Pangilinan] for helping teams secure

practice times at the field, and also taking care of facilities. Also like to thank Alvin Takai and Derron Flores for getting the field ready for Monday (today)," said Tenorio.

"Also big thank you to Tan Holdings for getting us started last year and for their continued support," he said.

He added, "SBL would also like to give a shout out to Natibu Sports Association for getting the U15 and U12 games rolling this weekend (Sunday)."

In the 2023 SBL season, the regular season was dominated by an undefeated Cardinals team and took the championship home after winning two of three in the championship series against the Junior Nationals.



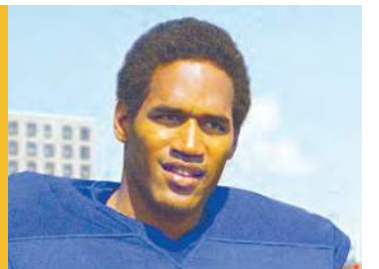
Castellanos' walk-off rallies Phillies past Pirates, 4-3.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

OJ Simpson was one of the NFL's greatest running backs.

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16 MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMI netters sweep B16 in NPRC

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

It was a sea of blue at the American Memorial Park tennis courts as the NMI boys swept the U16 division in the conclusion of the North Pacific Regional Championships on an unpredictably rainy and sunny Saturday.

Nason Wessel, Si Woo Lee, Henry Choi, and June Yu finished the tourney in the Top 4 spot and punched their ticket to the 2024 Pacific Oceania Junior Championship in Lautoka, Fiji this July.

When the on-and-off rain throughout the day finally gave way to the sun long

enough to resume matches, Wessel faced off against Lee in the finals and bested him, 6-3, 6-1, for the No. 1 spot and handed Lee the second spot.

Wessel first took on teammate Henry Choi in the semis last Friday, and advanced to the finals after a 6-2, 6-3 win.

The third spot went to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI netters swept the boys U16 division of the North Pacific Regional Championships with, from right, No. 1 NMI's Nason Wessel, second place Si Woo Lee, third place Henry Choi, and fourth place June Yu pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Ruiz, Bang top 3rd JKPL 5K

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Run Saipan members Jordan Ruiz and Ann Bang topped the 2024 Friends of the Joten-Kiyu Public Library 5K Community Fun Run/Walk that spanned from the Gapan Public Market parking lot to Quarter Master Road and back last Saturday afternoon.

Fortunately, the rain that fell heavily on-and-off throughout the day held off for the race to start on time. It trickled a bit but not hard enough to get everyone soaking wet.

Instead of the rain, sweat drenched all over Ruiz as he sprinted and finished the race first overall with a time of 18:38. Second was Shigeki Tenorio with a time of 21:01, and third was barefoot runner Chongnam Lee with a time of 22:07.

Bang was the fastest woman on the course with a time of 22:52, followed by Andrea

Tagum at 38:06, and Audrey Tagum at 39:02.

Frank Palacios topped the boys U12 division at 39:47; second was Ezekiel Naputi Lizama at 55:35; and third was Tristan Ranili at 1:01:01.

In the girls U12 division, sisters Sua Jang and Dana Jang both clocked in at 41:00, and Alexandra Bimbirch came in at 45:12.

In the concurrent Literary Character Costume Contest, Alexandra Bimbirch, dressed up as a Koopa Troopa from Super Mario/Gecko Boy, racked up the most votes with 27 registered participants.

For 23-year-old Ruiz, he said it's exhausting as usual "going all out on a 5K, but it was a little easier because a lot of the normal runners that are crazy fast were not here today so I went all out and it ended up in my favor."

The Saipan Community School teacher said he's raced

See RUIZ on Page 15



Ruiz



Bang

Henry Choi after Yu conceded early when he felt ill on the court in the middle of their match, 3-6, 0-3.

The boys bested netters from Guam, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and Nauru in the tourney that was held from April 8 to April 13.

In the boys U16 doubles, Wessel and Lee teamed up and took home first place after they defeated Choi and Yu in

the finals, 6-3, 6-3.

As for the girls U16 division, Guam's Leila Mercado took the top qualifying spot after defeating the NMI's Hoo Wang in the finals, 6-4, 6-0. Wang settled for the No. 2 spot, while the NMI's Irin Chung clinched third place after defeating No. 4 Louisa Williams of the Federated States of Micronesia.

For the girls U16 doubles,

the NMI's Hannah Chae and Anna Kwon played well into the late afternoon and defeated teammates Irin Chung and Hoo Wang in three tough sets, 2-6, 7-5, 10-6.

Wessel, who recently turned 15 years old, told *Saipan Tribune* that the competition for him was "pretty easy." He said he went into the tourney with no practice whatsoever and thought he was going to lose

all his matches, but that "motivation kicked in and I started winning every single match," said Wessel.

In his finals match against Lee, Wessel said he's played against him a lot so he already knows how he plays, just like with the other NMI players.

On how he felt qualifying for Fiji, the Kagman High School student said it's a good

See NMI on Page 15

2024 SBL season starts today

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The much-anticipated 2024 Saipan Baseball League season tees off today, Monday, April 15, at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

It's a return to the diamond for CNMI's major league sluggers with 13 teams vying for the championship—last season's champions the Cardinals, the Natives, Falcons, Sandlot, Royals, Whitesox, Blue Jays, Bandits, Braves, BlueShark, Bears, D'9ers, and Padres.



The first game tonight at 6:30pm is between the Cardinals and the Falcons. Before the first pitch, an awards ceremony for the 2023 season will be held at 6pm.

Games this season are scheduled from Monday through Thursday at 6:30pm at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field. Fridays and Saturdays are reserved for make-up games.

League coordinator and SBL board member Shine Tenorio invites the community out to watch and support the



LEIGH GASES

Baseball under the lights is back as the 2024 Saipan Baseball League season is underway tonight at 6:30pm at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field. In this photo, last season's champions Cardinals is seen in a dramatic sunset game against the Junior Nationals on Game 2 of the best-of-3 championships last August.

teams as the season unfolds. He said, "we're excited to start our SBL season... We have 13 teams playing a 10-game

season each. Each team will not be playing two teams but it looks to be an exciting season.

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